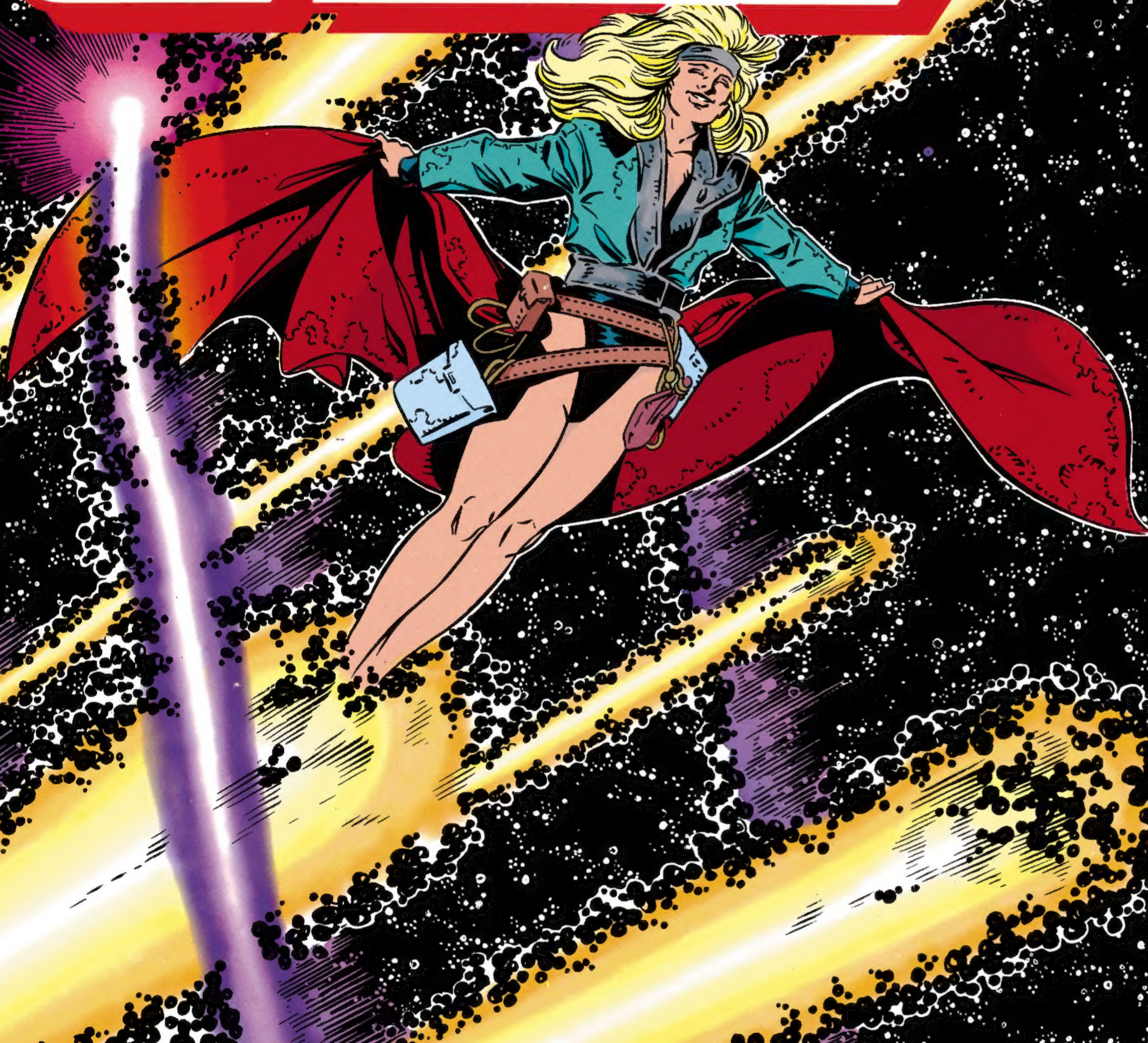


  
LEGION OF  
SUPER-HEROES  
9  
JUL 90

# LEGION

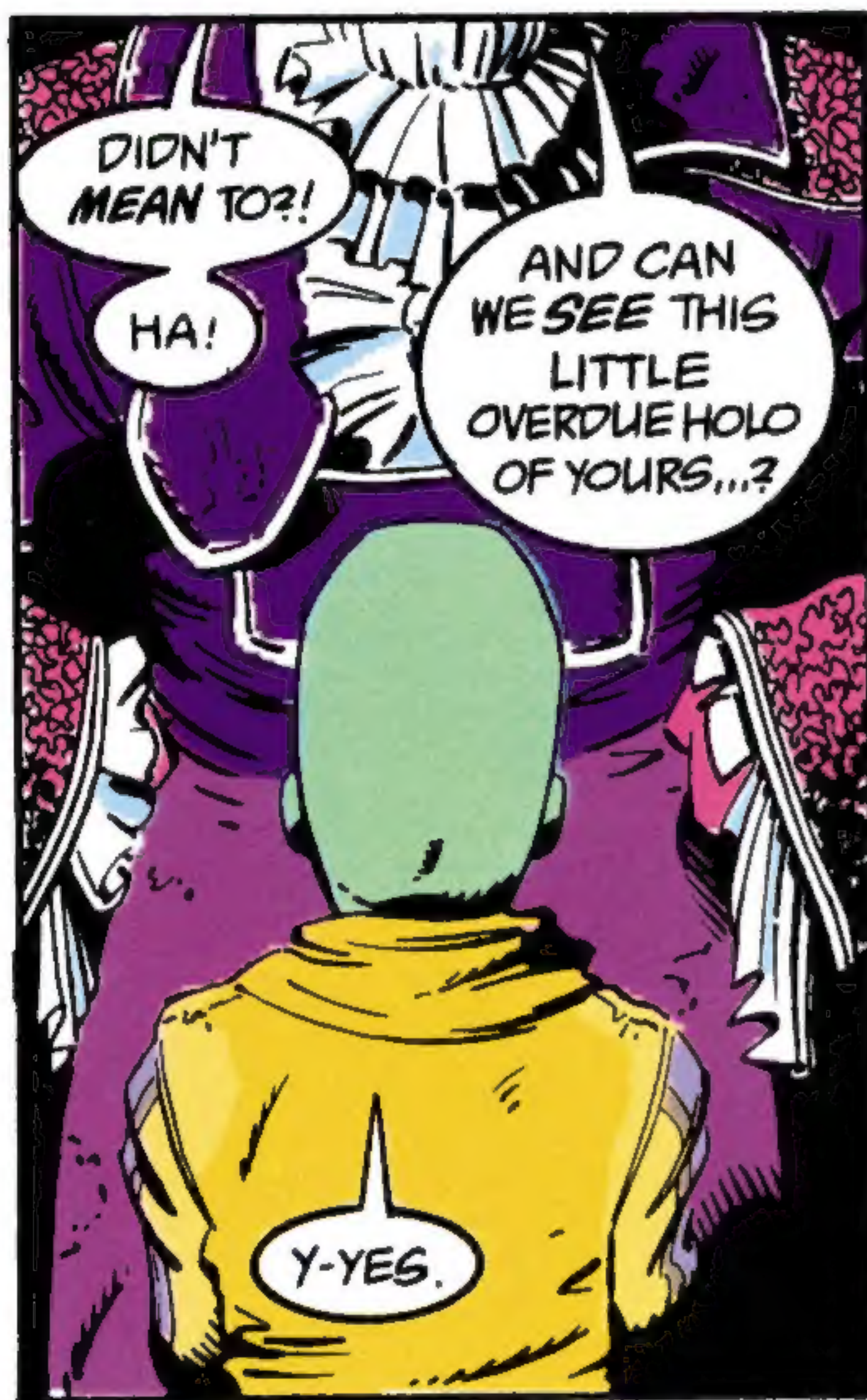
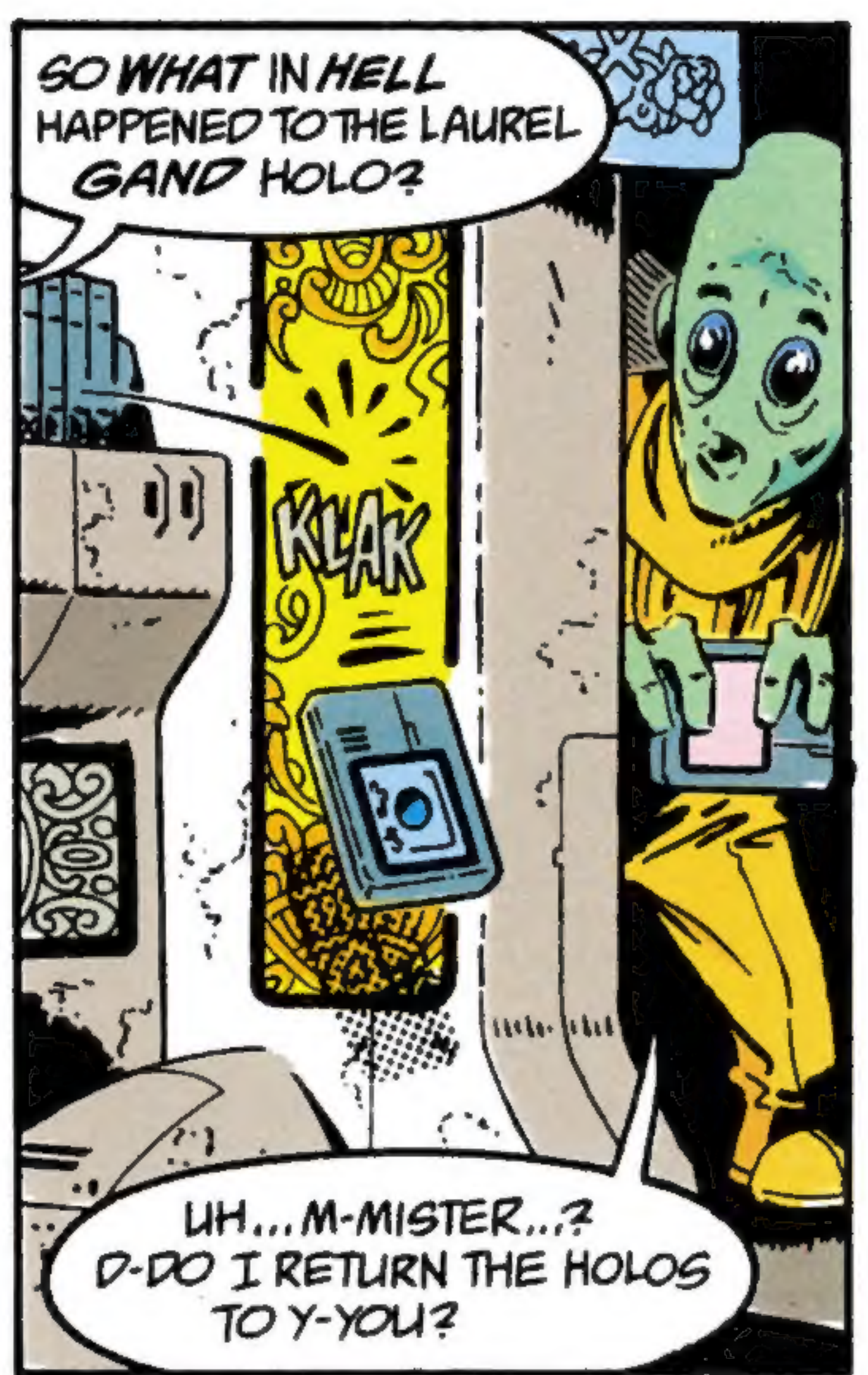
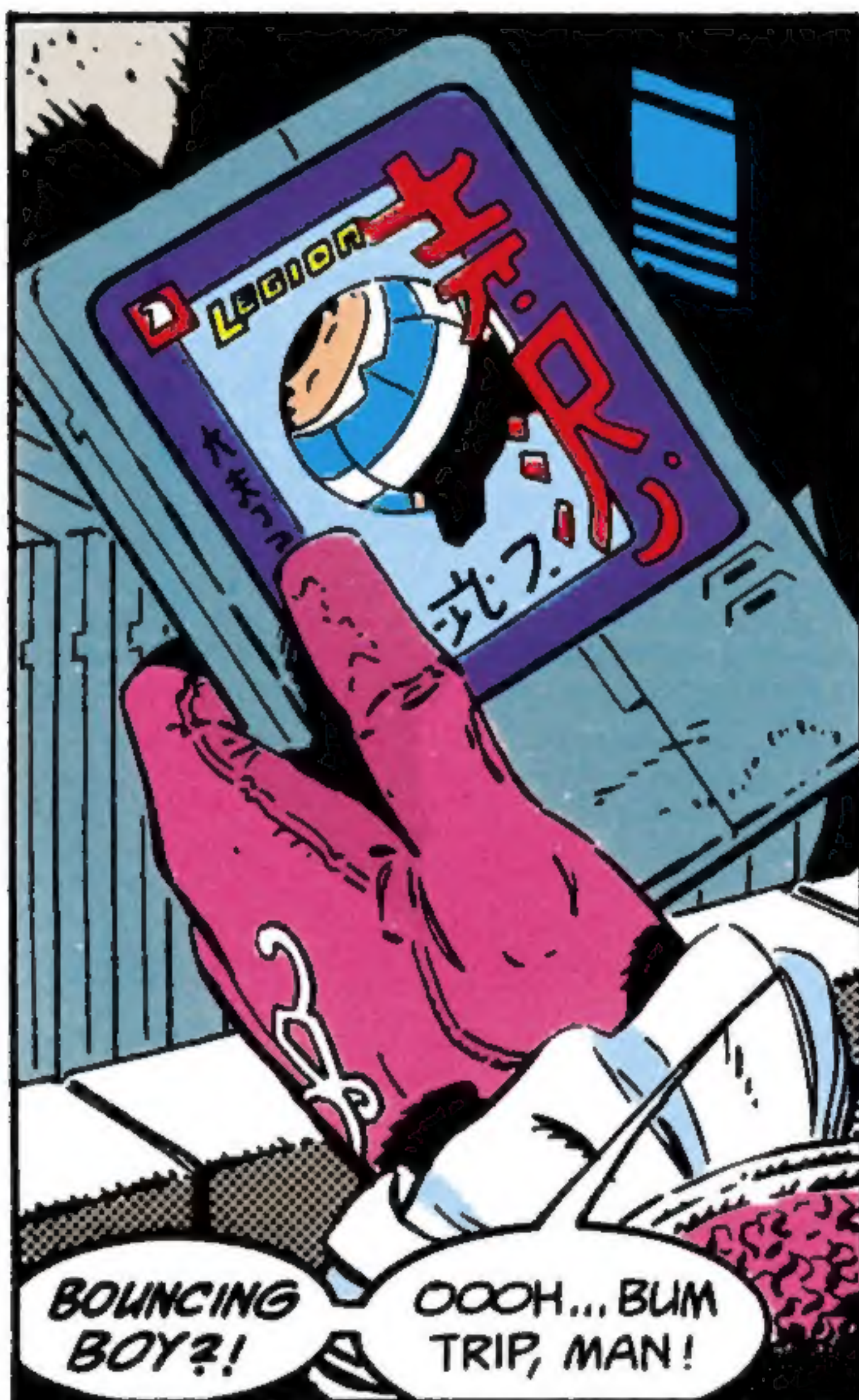
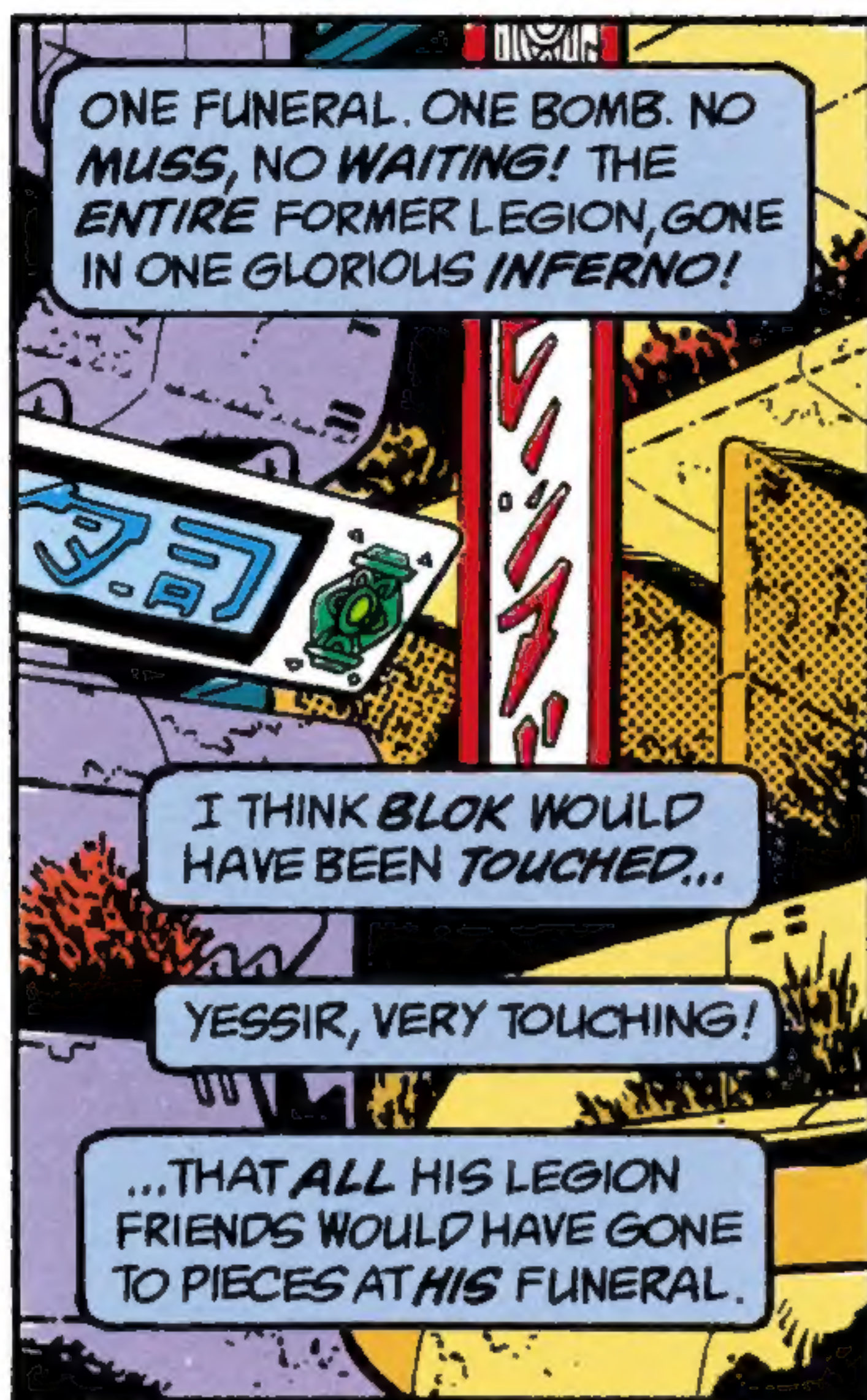
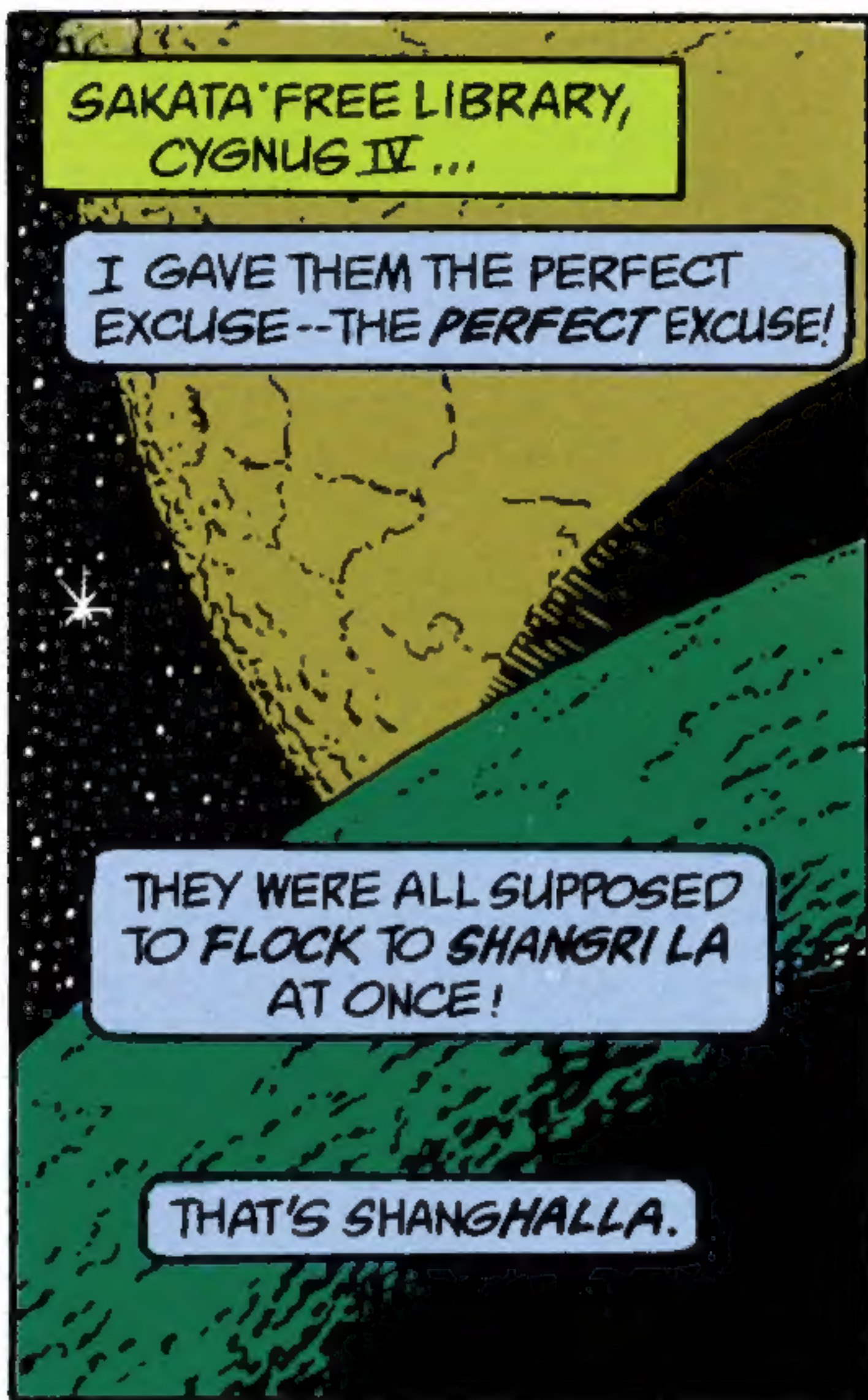
OF SUPER-HEROES



## Laurel's STORY

T. & M. BIERBAUM · GIFFEN · CULLINS · LEWIS









THE LAUREL GAND HOLO!

MAN...I CAN THINK OF SOMETHIN' ELSE NOBODY'D MISS!

HERE, MY SWEET CHILD-- PLEASE TAKE MY HAND. LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING...

WHAT?

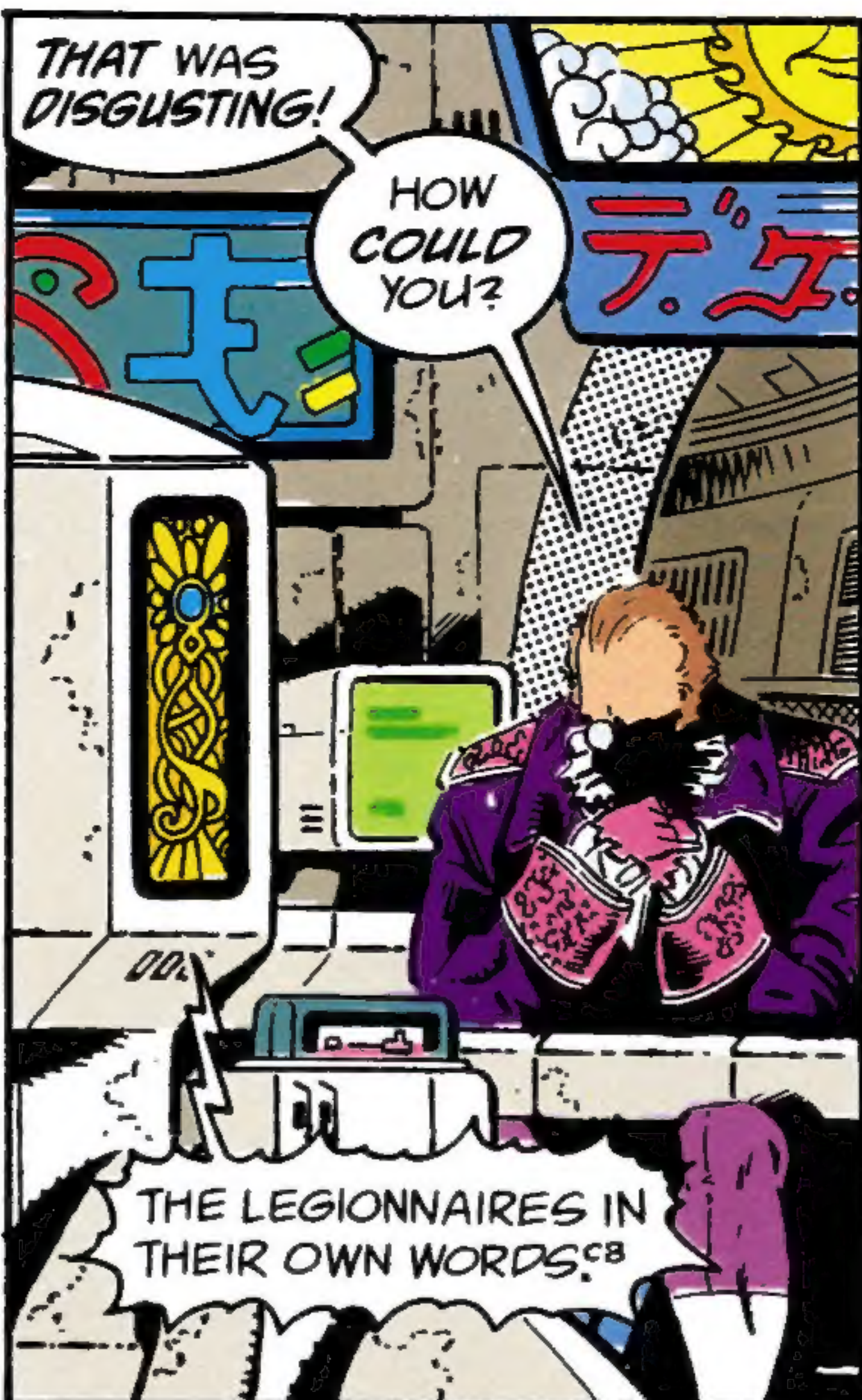


A BRIGHT, REMARKABLE BOY SUCH AS YOU DESERVES A SPECIAL REWARD.

WHAT?



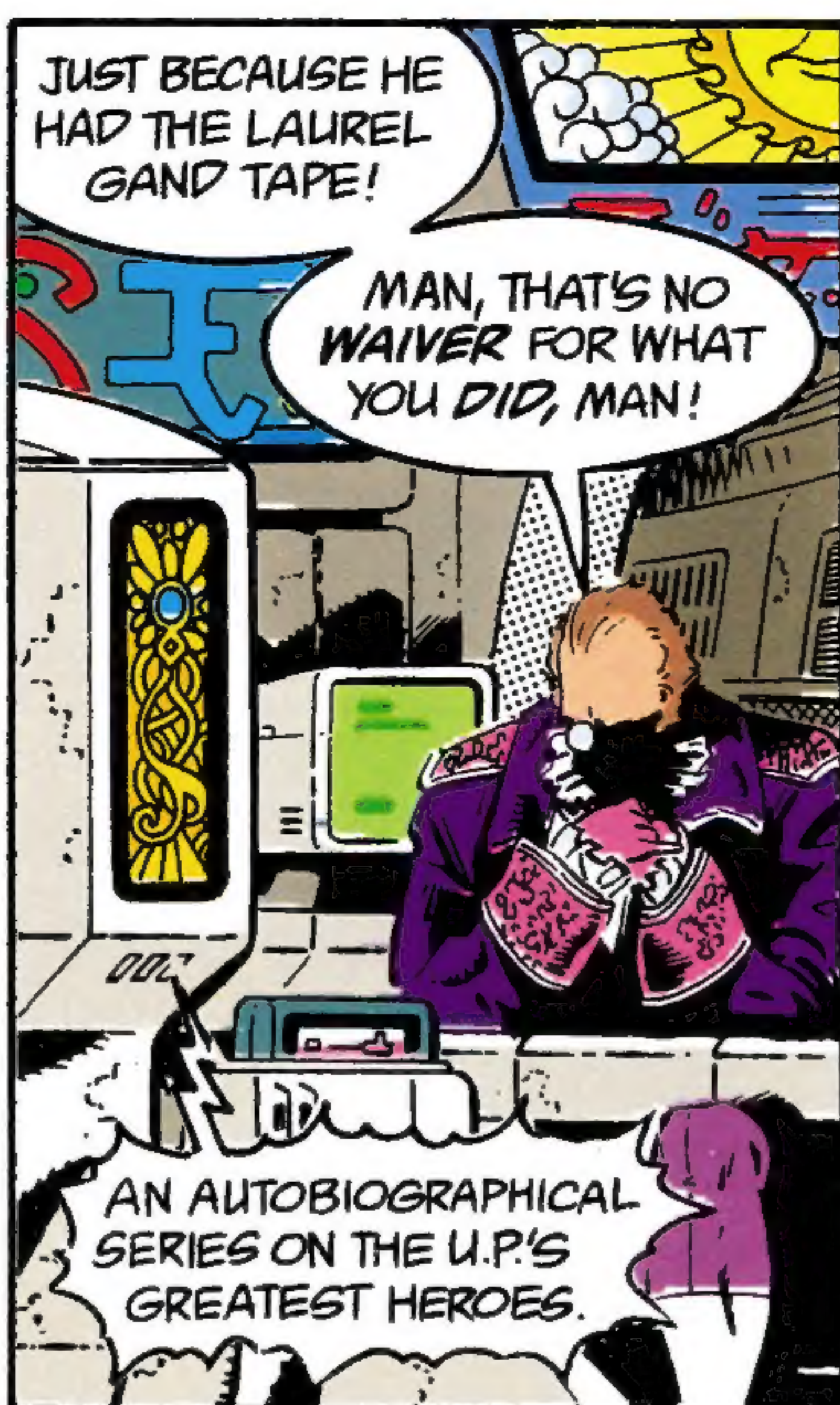
OH, IT'S A SURPRISE-- A NICE SURPRISE...



THAT WAS DISGUSTING!

HOW COULD YOU?

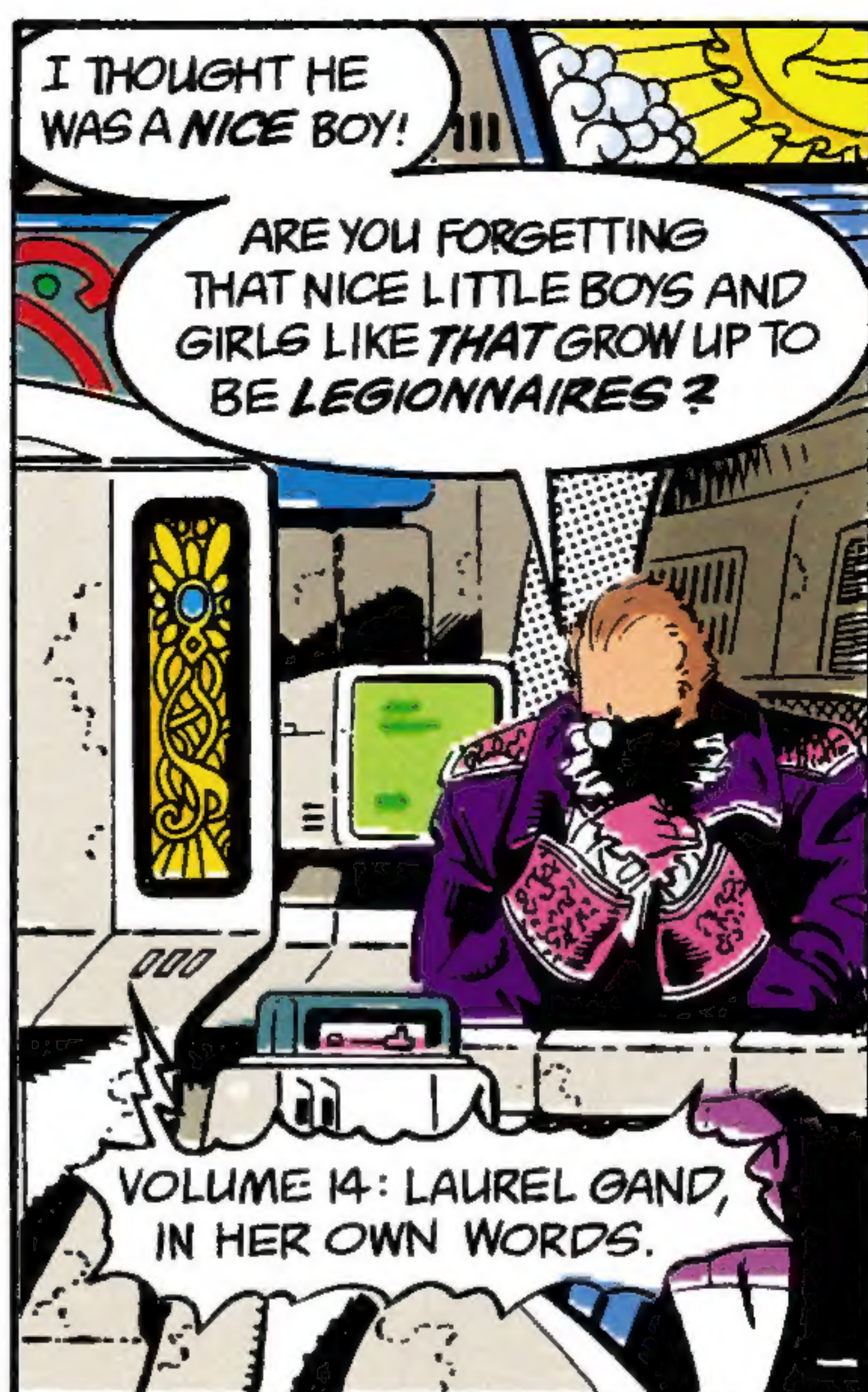
THE LEGIONNAIRES IN THEIR OWN WORDS<sup>CB</sup>



JUST BECAUSE HE HAD THE LAUREL GAND TAPE!

MAN, THAT'S NO WAIVER FOR WHAT YOU DID, MAN!

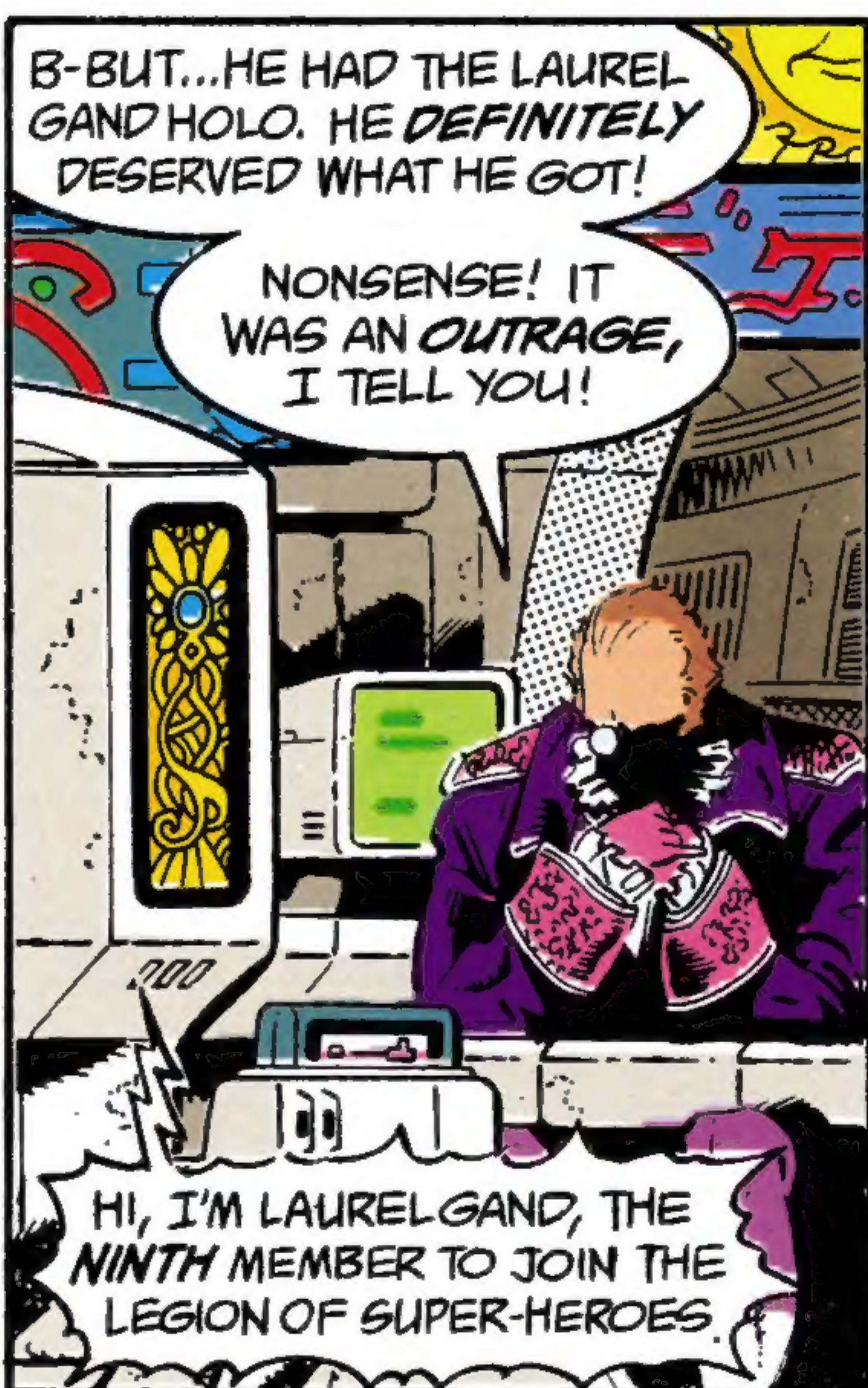
AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SERIES ON THE U.P.'S GREATEST HEROES.



I THOUGHT HE WAS A NICE BOY!

ARE YOU FORGETTING THAT NICE LITTLE BOYS AND GIRLS LIKE THAT GROW UP TO BE LEGIONNAIRES?

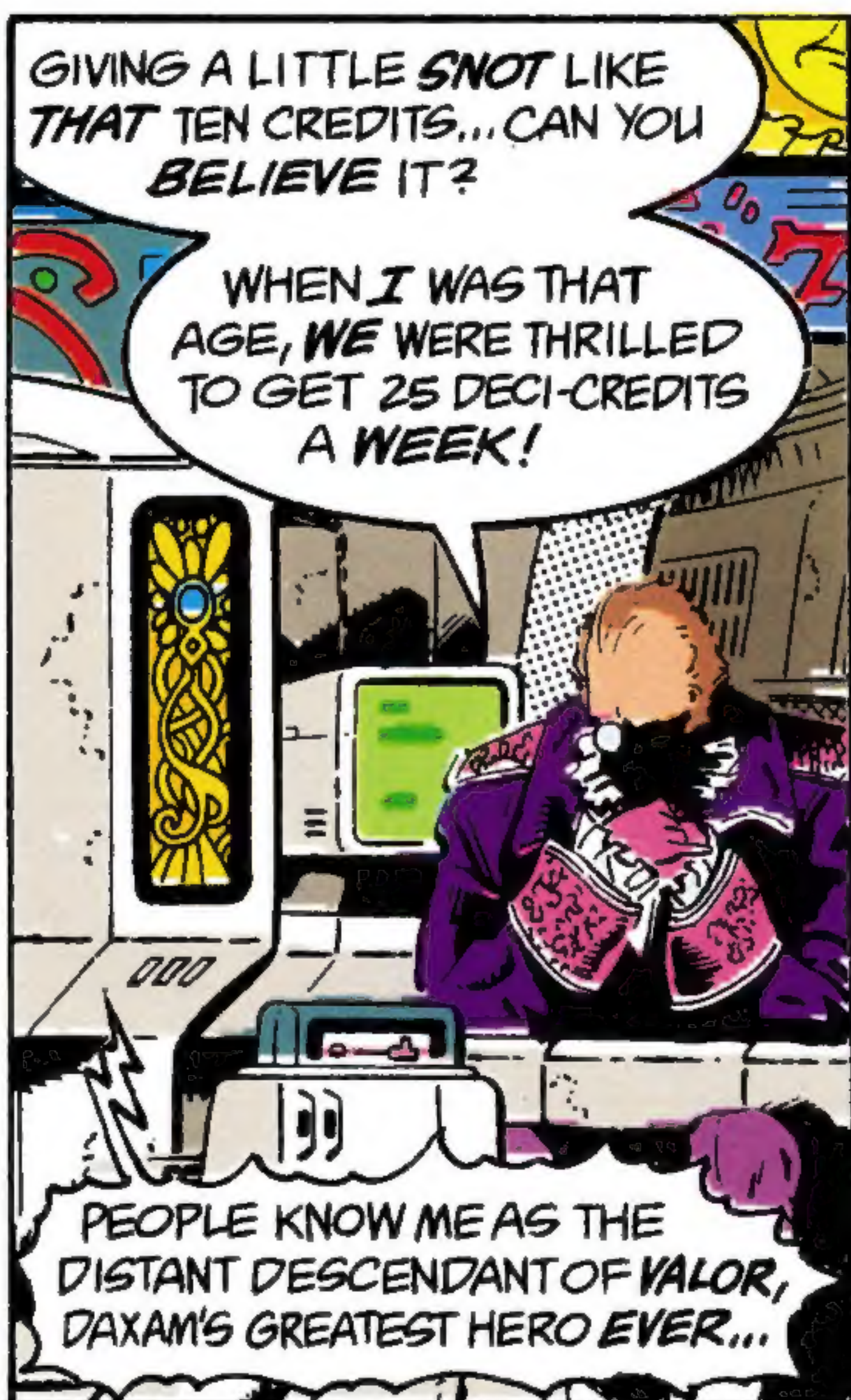
VOLUME 14: LAUREL GAND, IN HER OWN WORDS.



B-BUT...HE HAD THE LAUREL GAND HOLO. HE DEFINITELY DESERVED WHAT HE GOT!

NONSENSE! IT WAS AN OUTRAGE, I TELL YOU!

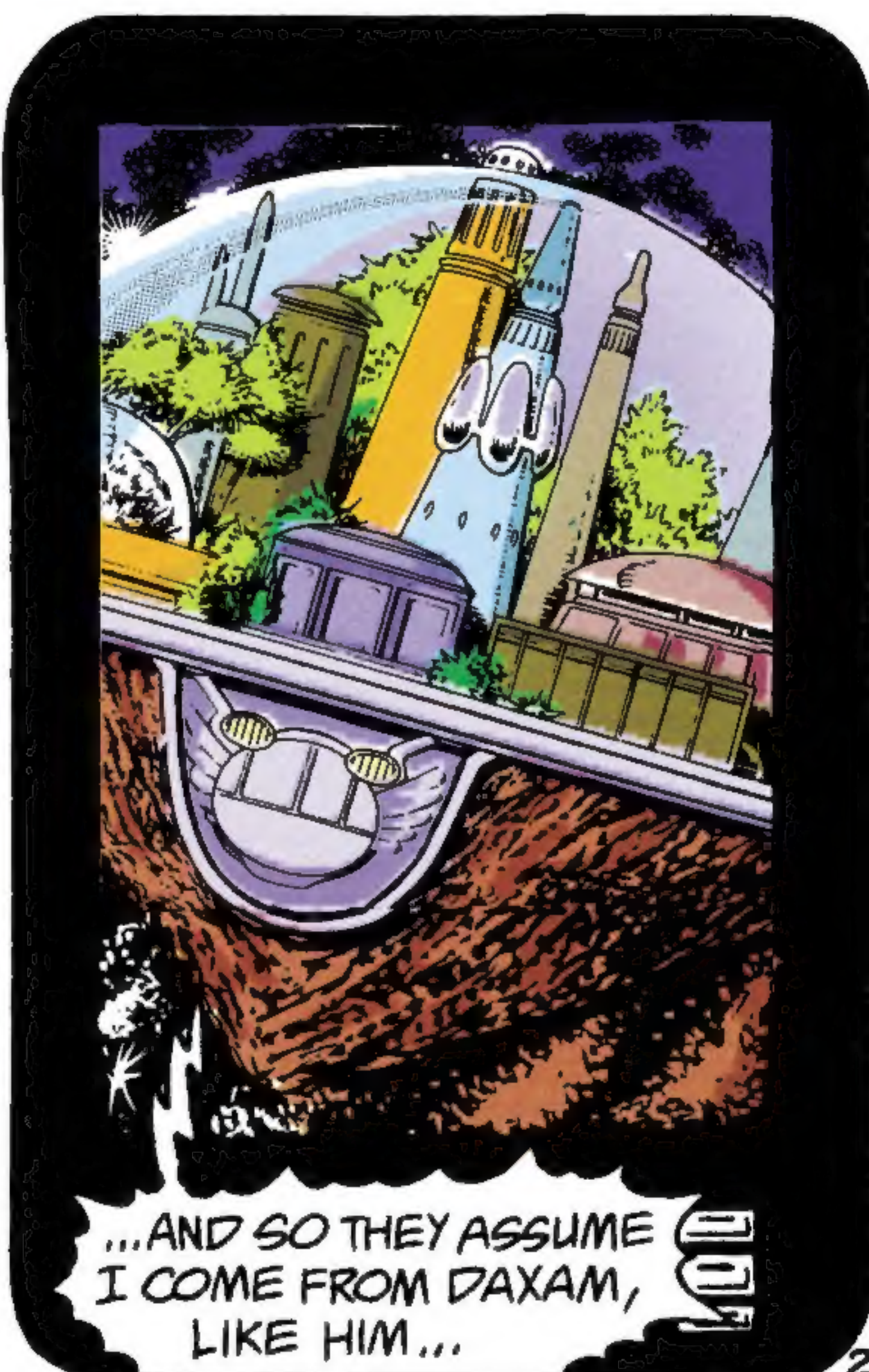
HI, I'M LAUREL GAND, THE NINTH MEMBER TO JOIN THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES.



GIVING A LITTLE SNOT LIKE THAT TEN CREDITS... CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

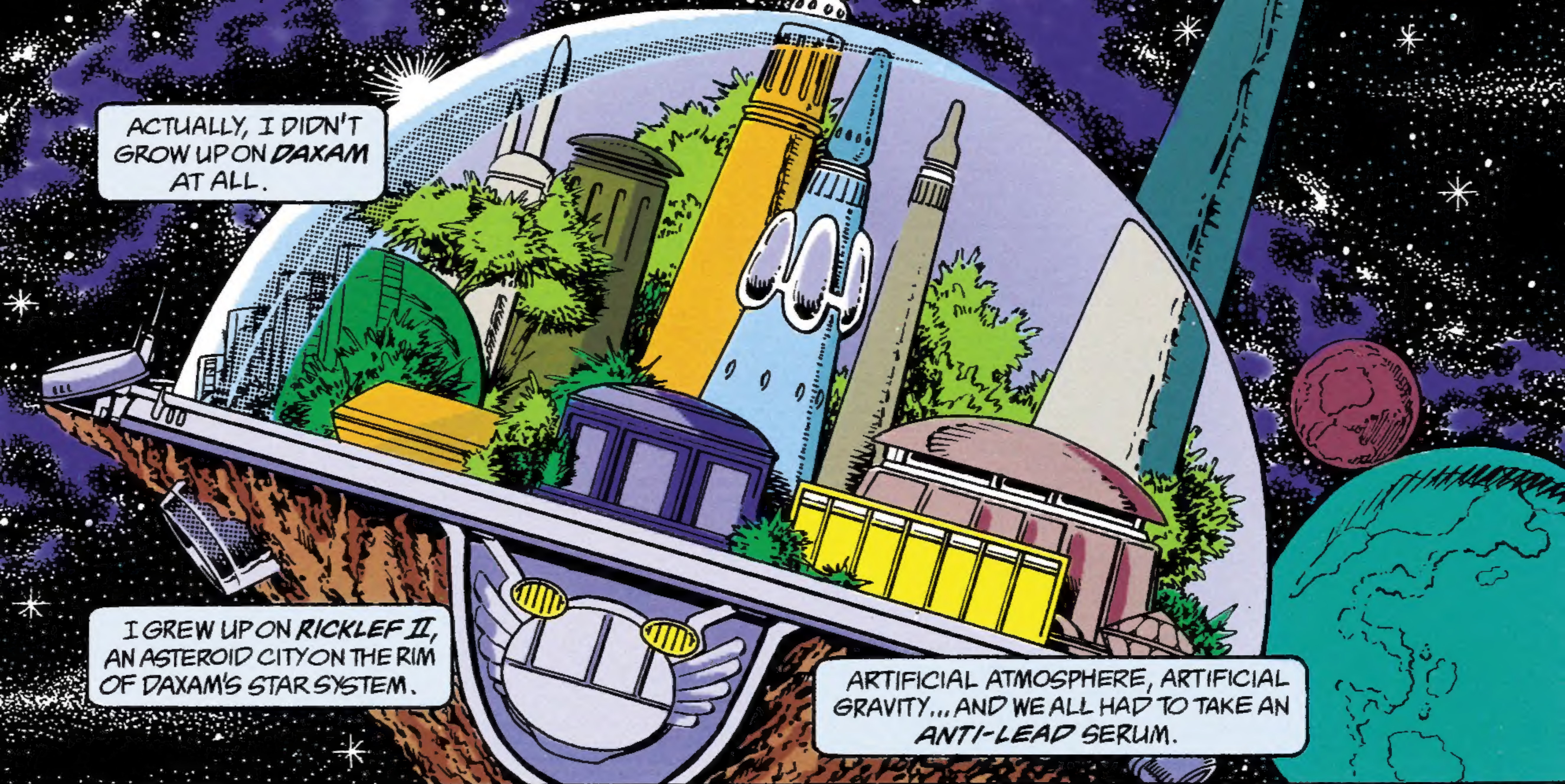
WHEN I WAS THAT AGE, WE WERE THRILLED TO GET 25 DECI-CREDITS A WEEK!

PEOPLE KNOW ME AS THE DISTANT DESCENDANT OF VALOR, DAXAM'S GREATEST HERO EVER...



...AND SO THEY ASSUME I COME FROM DAXAM, LIKE HIM...





ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T GROW UP ON **DAXAM** AT ALL.

I GREW UP ON **RICKLEF II**, AN ASTEROID CITY ON THE RIM OF **DAXAM'S** STAR SYSTEM.

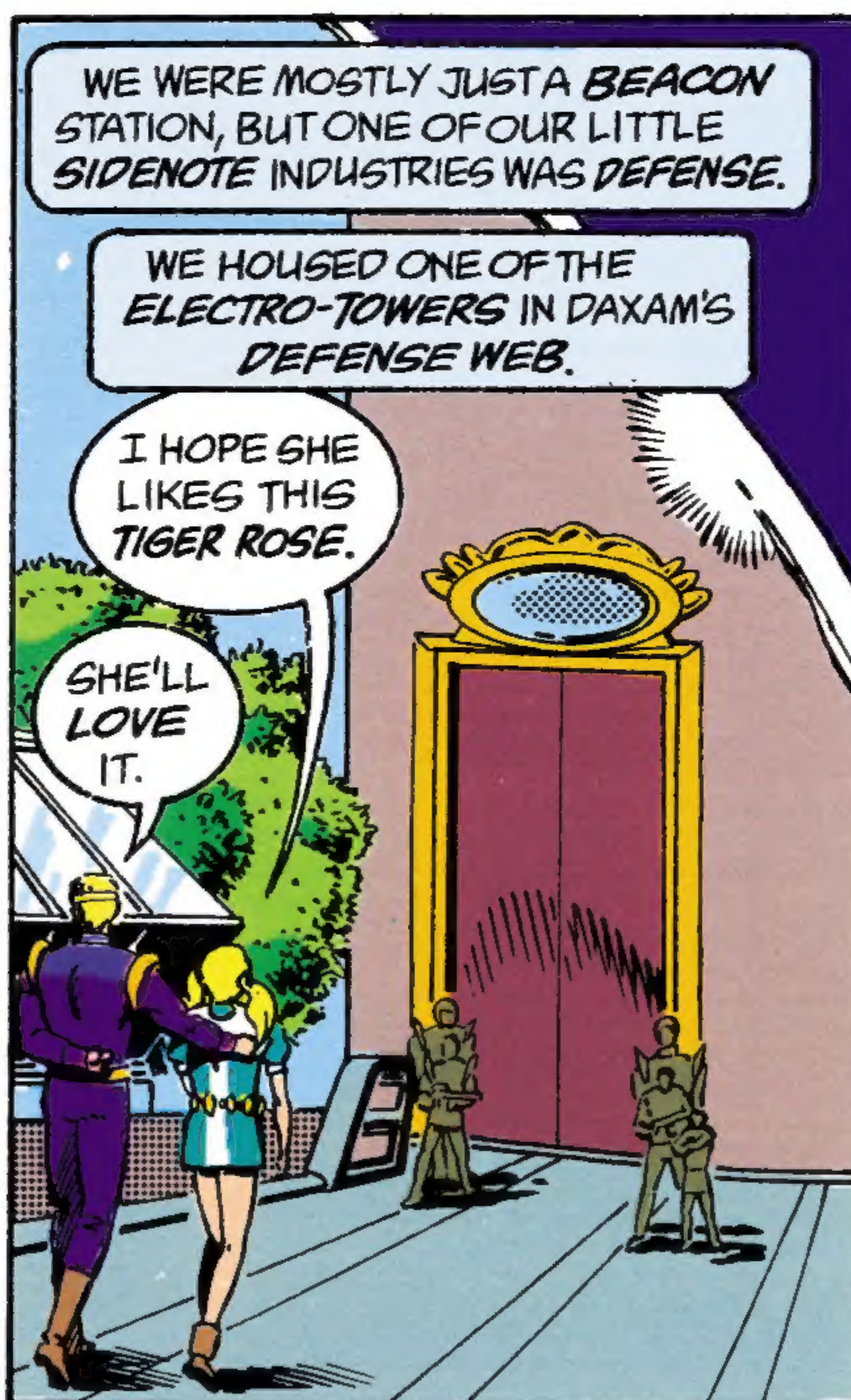
ARTIFICIAL ATMOSPHERE, ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY... AND WE ALL HAD TO TAKE AN **ANTI-LEAD** SERUM.



BUT OTHERWISE, WE HAD ALL THE COMFORTS OF **HOME**.

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MOMMY AGAIN.

SHE'S WORKING VERY HARD... ON 24-HOUR ALERT!

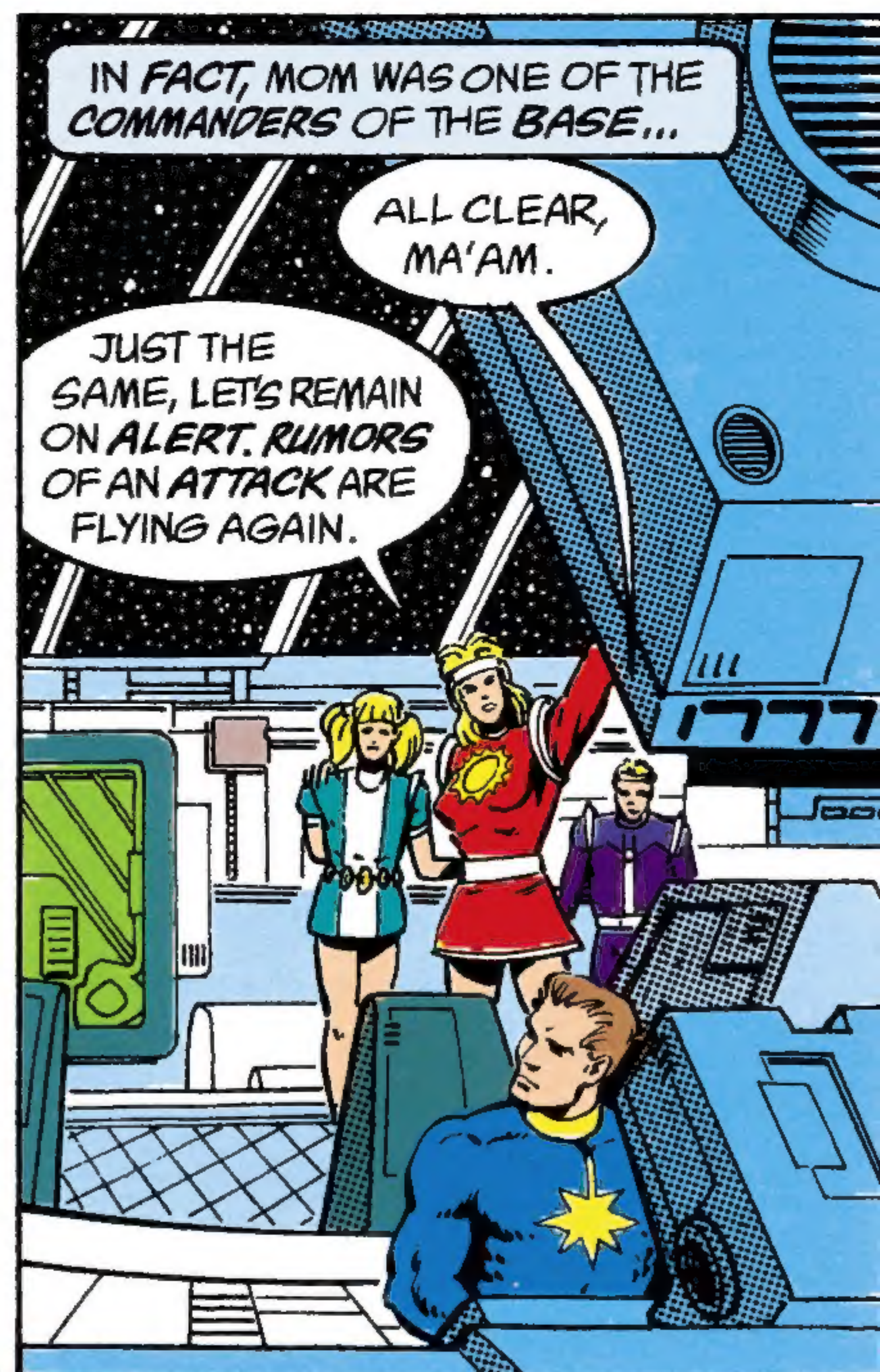


WE WERE MOSTLY JUST A **BEACON** STATION, BUT ONE OF OUR LITTLE **SIDENOTE** INDUSTRIES WAS **DEFENSE**.

WE HOUSED ONE OF THE **ELECTRO-TOWERS** IN **DAXAM'S** **DEFENSE** WEB.

I HOPE SHE LIKES THIS **TIGER ROSE**.

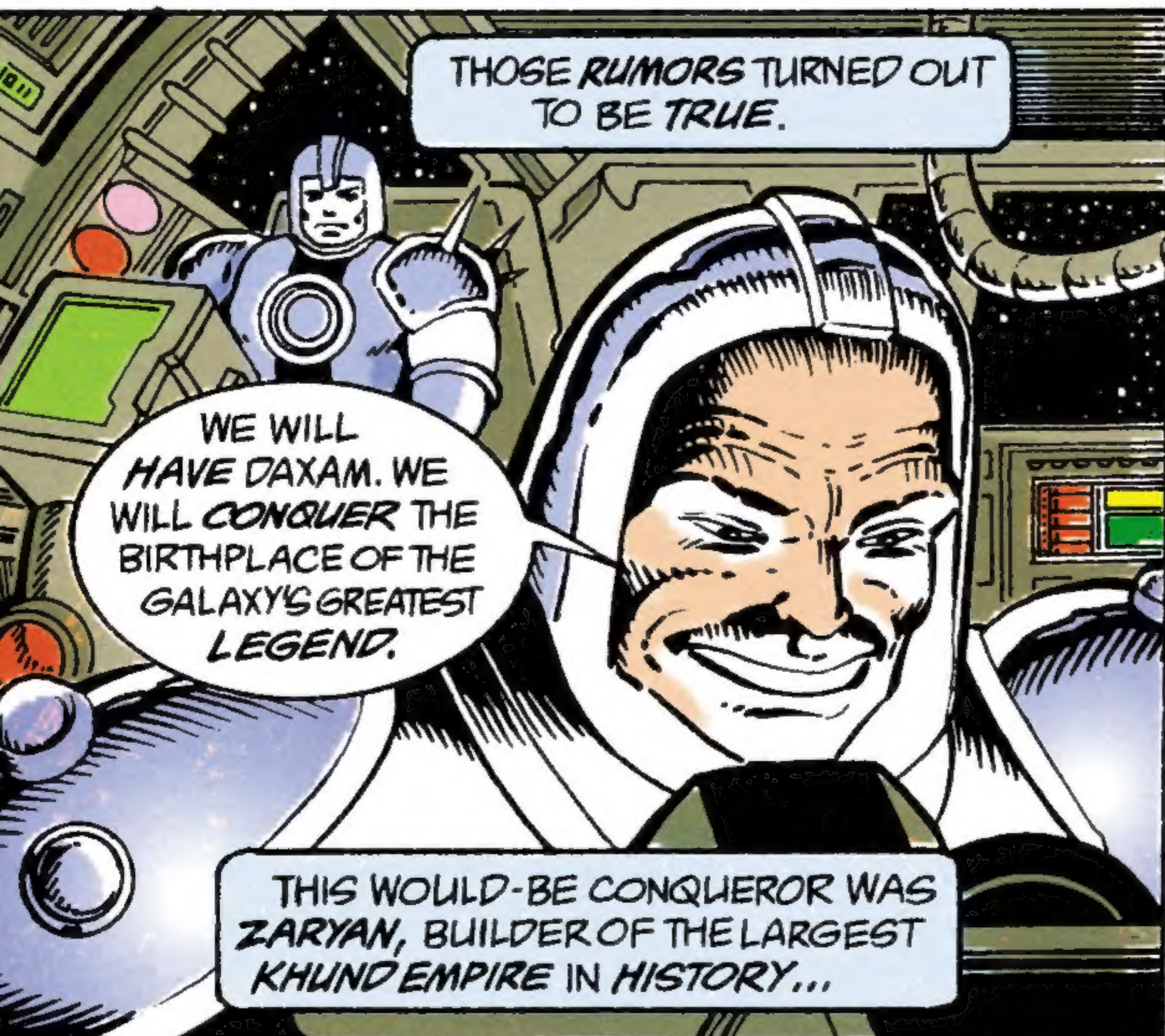
SHE'LL LOVE IT.



IN FACT, MOM WAS ONE OF THE **COMMANDERS** OF THE **BASE**...

ALL CLEAR, MA'AM.

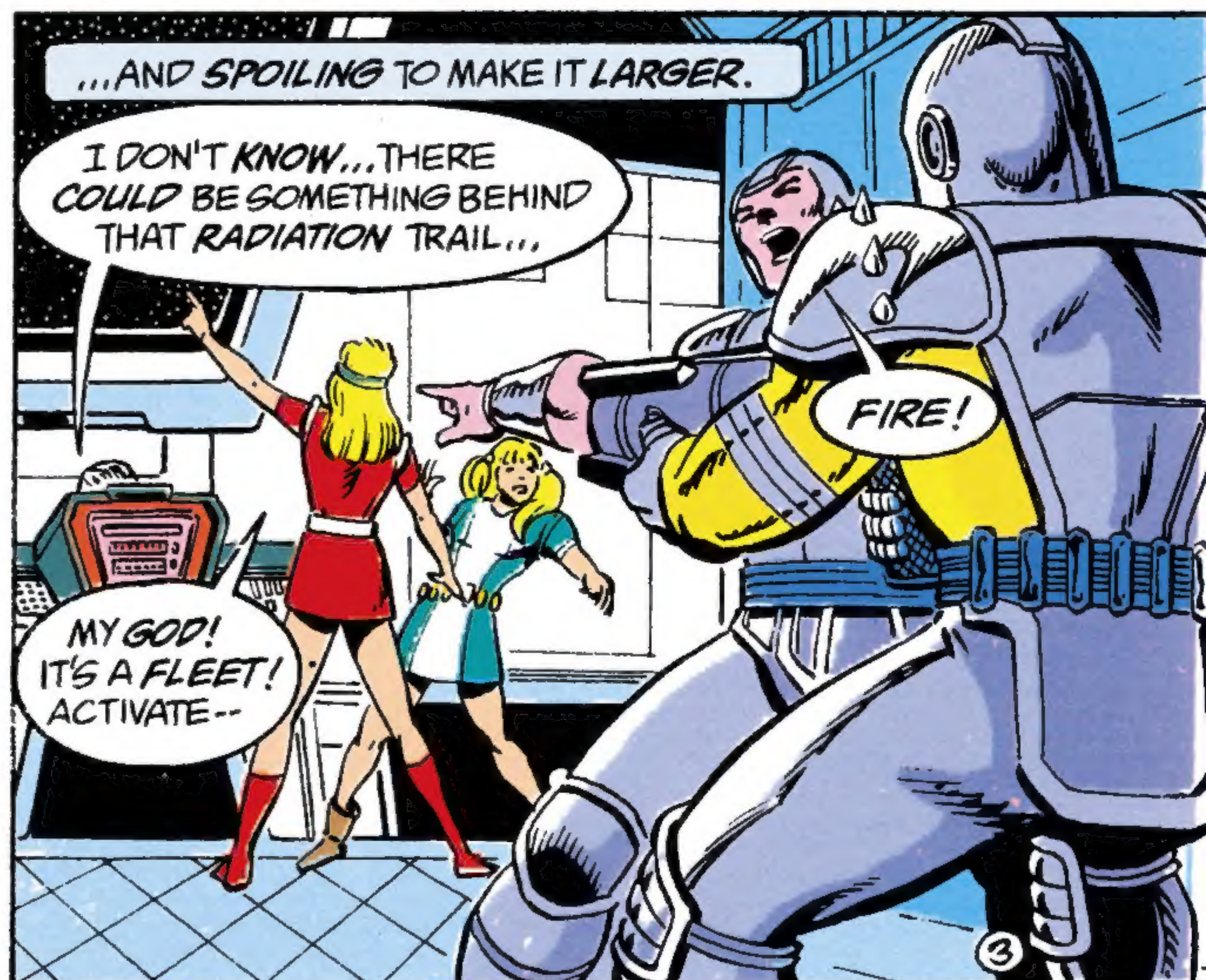
JUST THE SAME, LET'S REMAIN ON **ALERT**. **RUMORS** OF AN **ATTACK** ARE FLYING AGAIN.



THOSE **RUMORS** TURNED OUT TO BE **TRUE**.

WE WILL HAVE **DAXAM**. WE WILL **CONQUER** THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE **GALAXY'S** GREATEST **LEGEND**.

THIS WOULD-BE **CONQUEROR** WAS **ZARYAN**, BUILDER OF THE LARGEST **KHUND** EMPIRE IN **HISTORY**...



...AND **SPOILING** TO MAKE IT **LARGER**.

I DON'T KNOW... THERE COULD BE SOMETHING BEHIND THAT **RADIATION** TRAIL...

MY GOD! IT'S A **FLEET**! **ACTIVATE**--

**FIRE!**

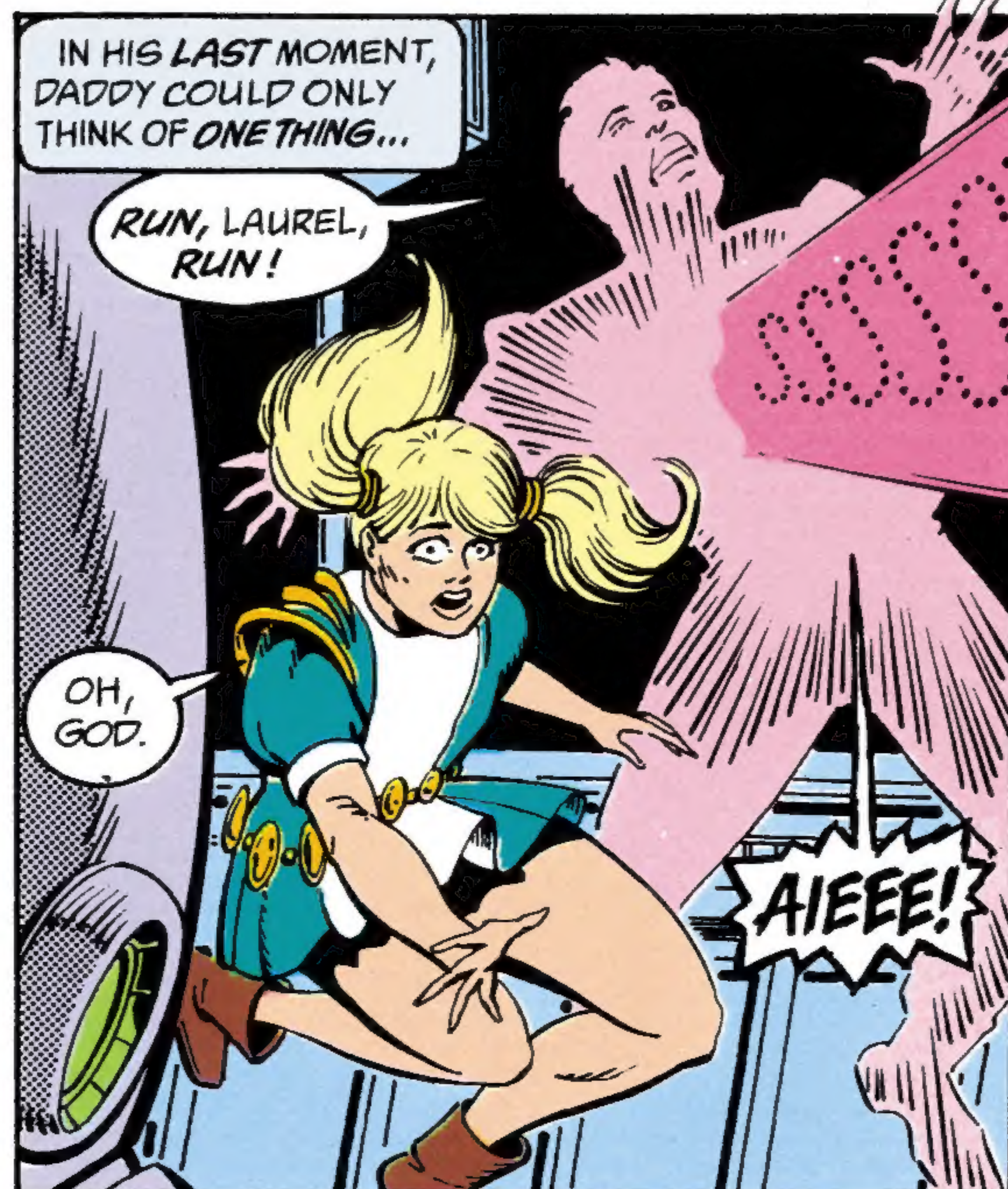




THEIR AGENTS HAD ALREADY PENETRATED THE BASE. THEY WERE RUTHLESS.

AAAUGH!

NNNOOO!

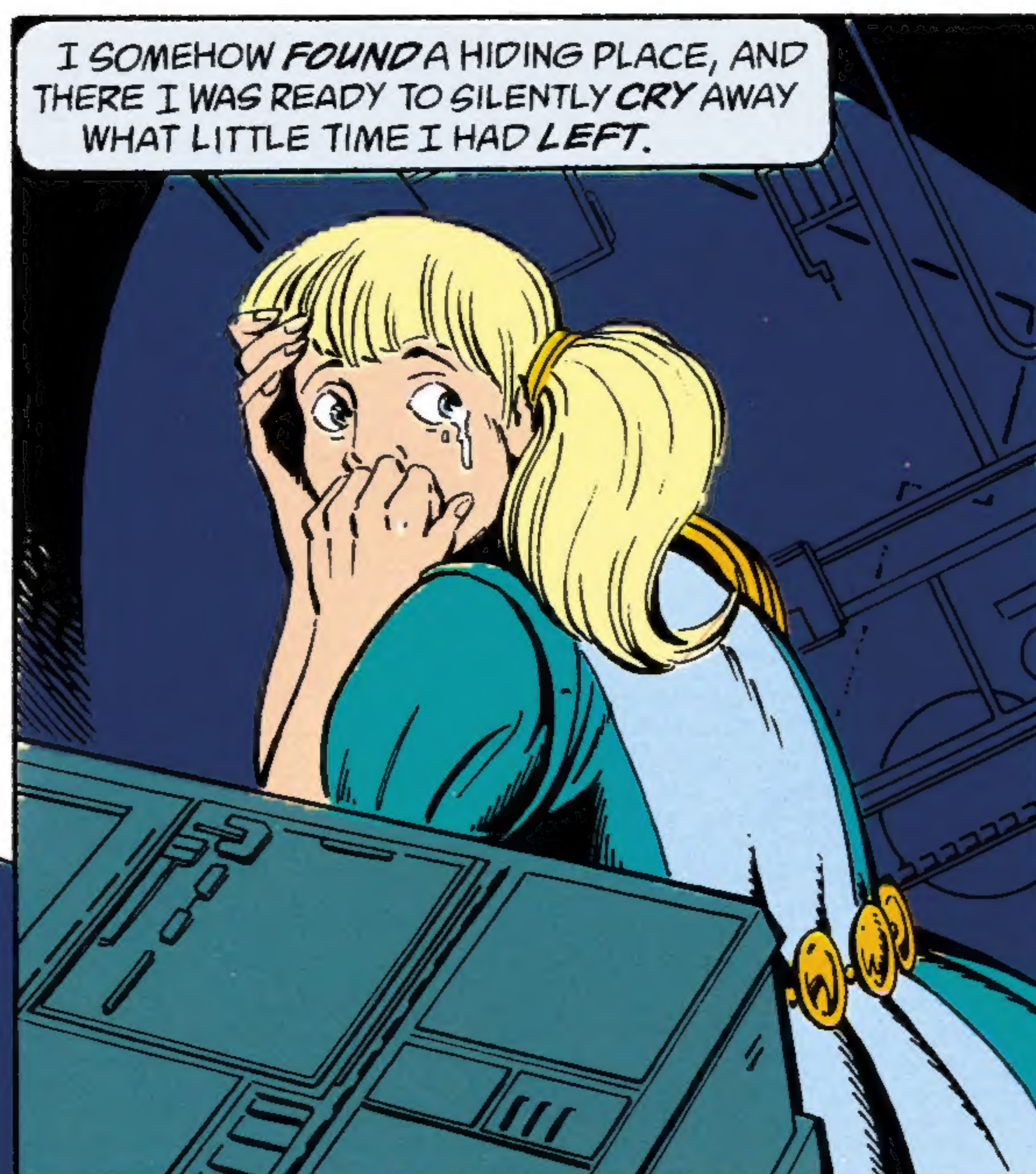


IN HIS LAST MOMENT, DADDY COULD ONLY THINK OF ONE THING...

RUN, LAUREL, RUN!

OH, GOD.

AIEEE!



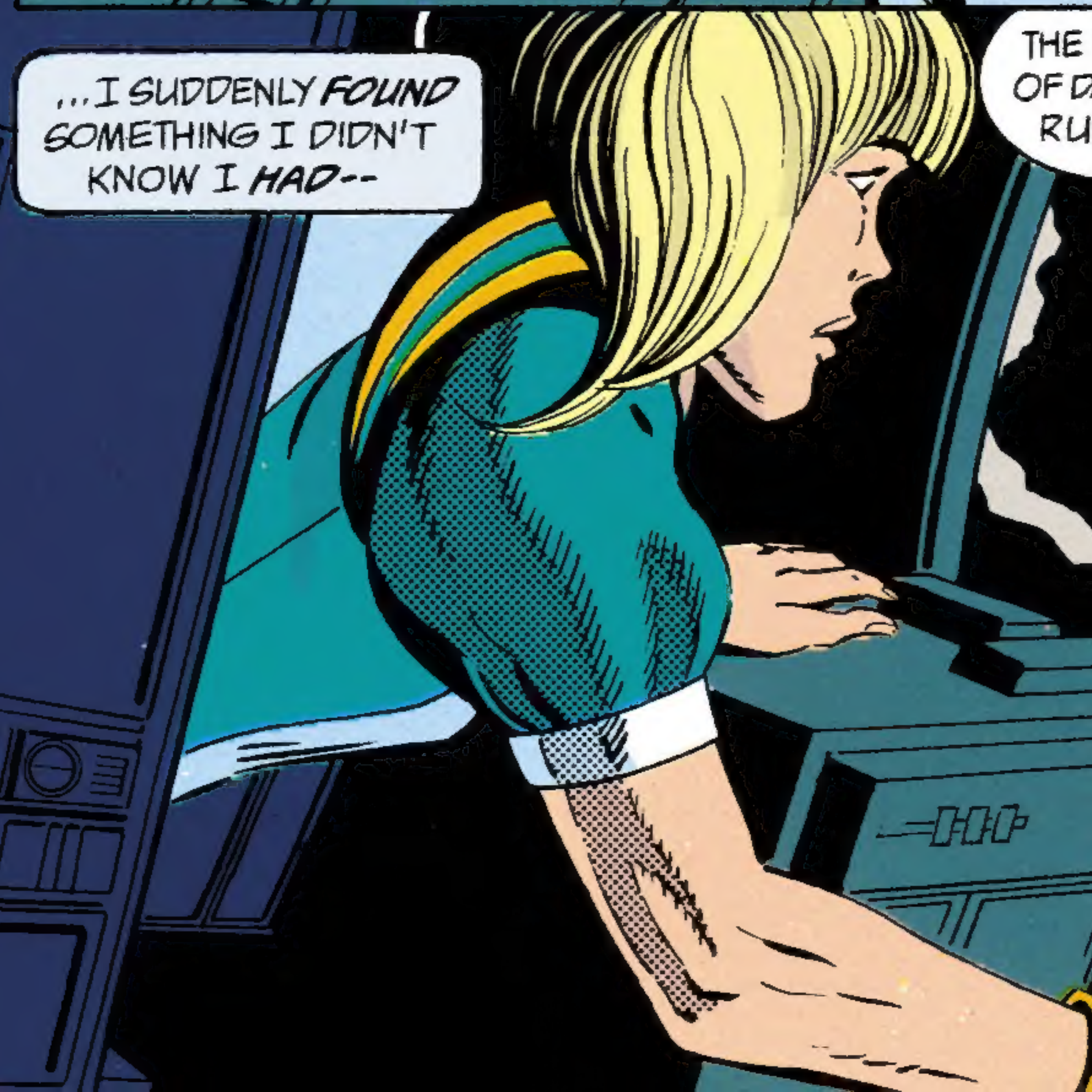
I SOMEHOW FOUND A HIDING PLACE, AND THERE I WAS READY TO SILENTLY CRY AWAY WHAT LITTLE TIME I HAD LEFT.



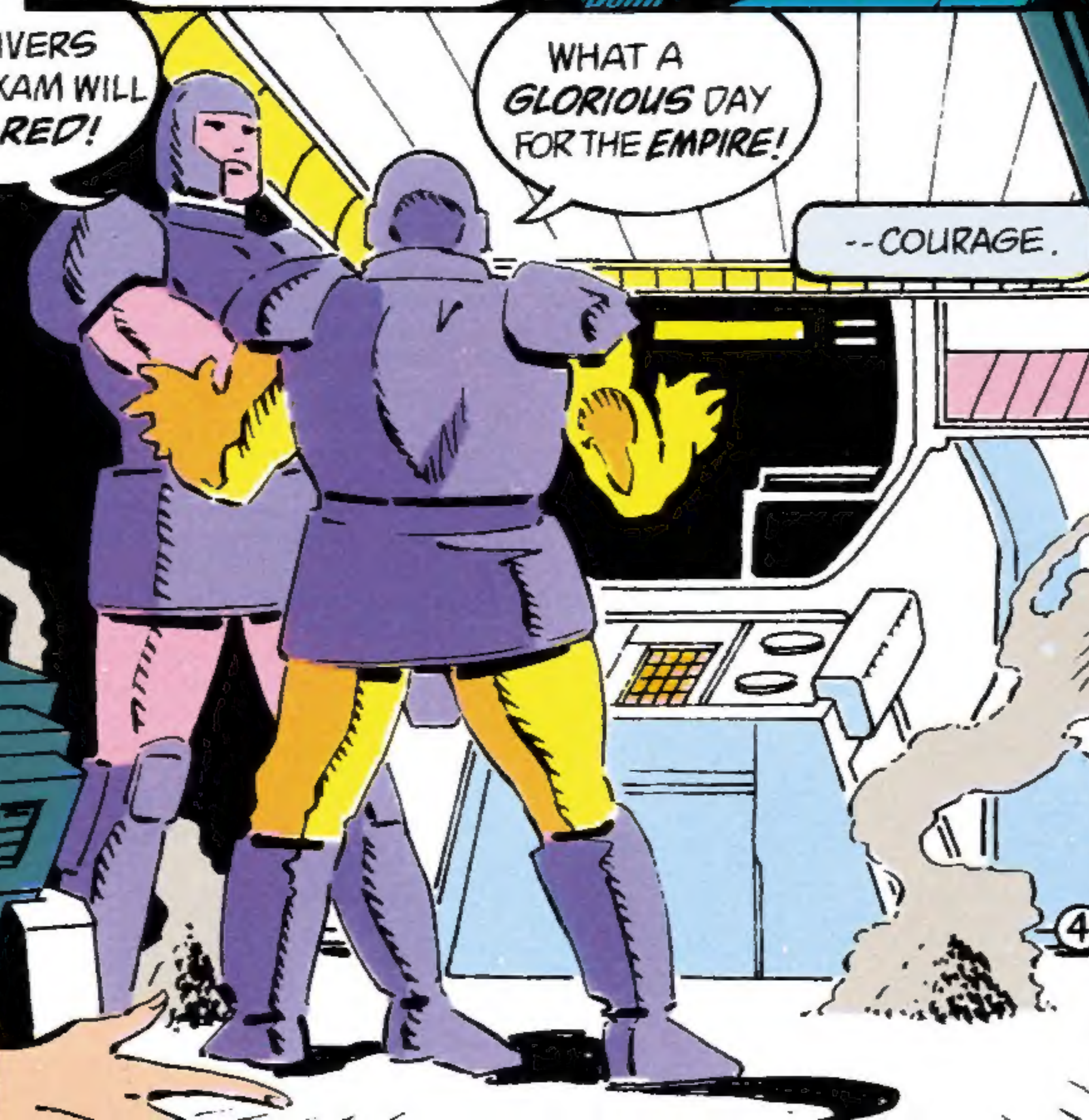
BUT WHEN I HEARD WHAT THE KHUNDS WERE UP TO...

...ELECTRO-TOWER DE-ACTIVATED...

...SIGNAL THE FLEET... ALL CLEAR FOR THE INVASION OF DAXAM...



...I SUDDENLY FOUND SOMETHING I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD--

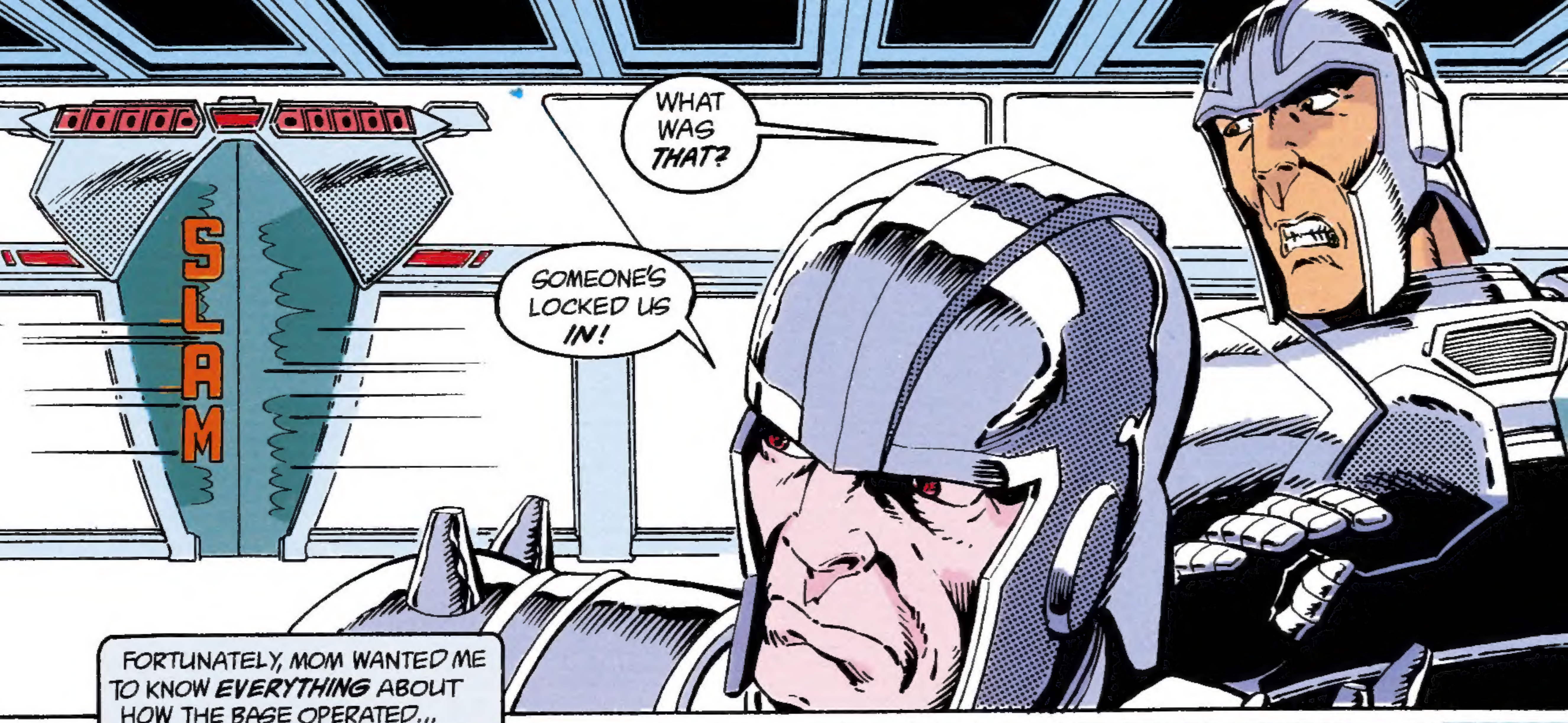


THE RIVERS OF DAXAM WILL RUN RED!

WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY FOR THE EMPIRE!

--COURAGE.



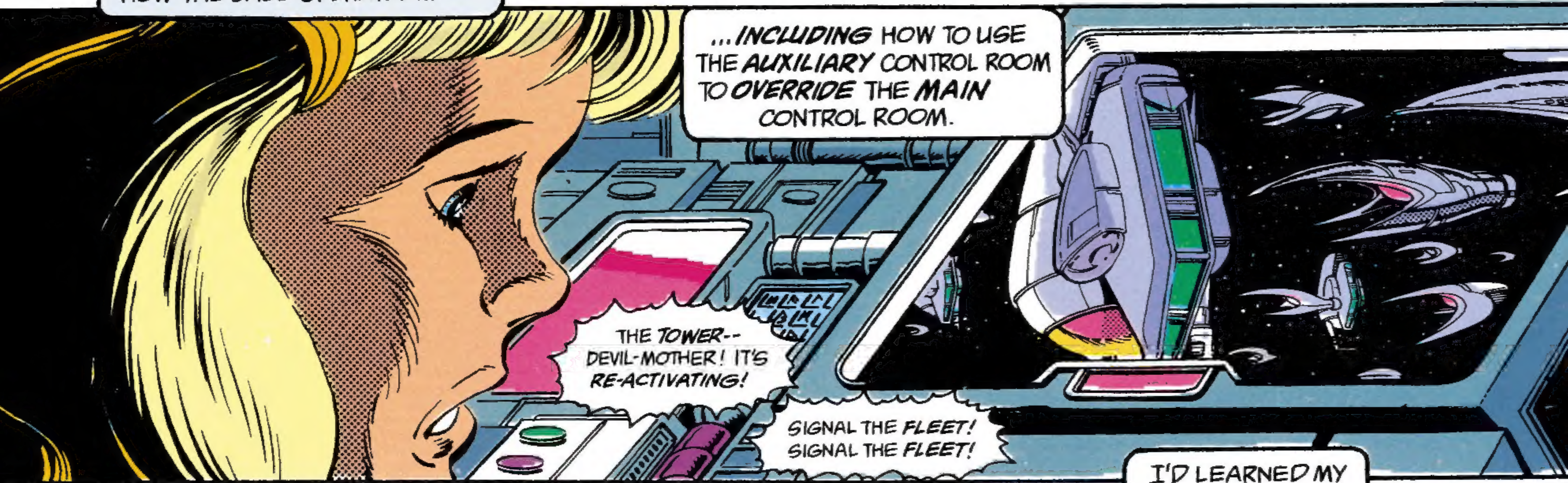


WHAT WAS THAT?

SOMEONE'S LOCKED US IN!

FORTUNATELY, MOM WANTED ME TO KNOW *EVERYTHING* ABOUT HOW THE BASE OPERATED...

...INCLUDING HOW TO USE THE AUXILIARY CONTROL ROOM TO OVERRIDE THE MAIN CONTROL ROOM.



THE TOWER--  
DEVIL-MOTHER! IT'S RE-ACTIVATING!

SIGNAL THE FLEET!  
SIGNAL THE FLEET!

I'D LEARNED MY LESSONS WELL.



WE MUST WARN THEM!

DEVIL-MOTHER!  
SIGNAL THE FLEET!

COMMUNICATIONS ARE OUT! SOMEBODY'S OVERRIDING!



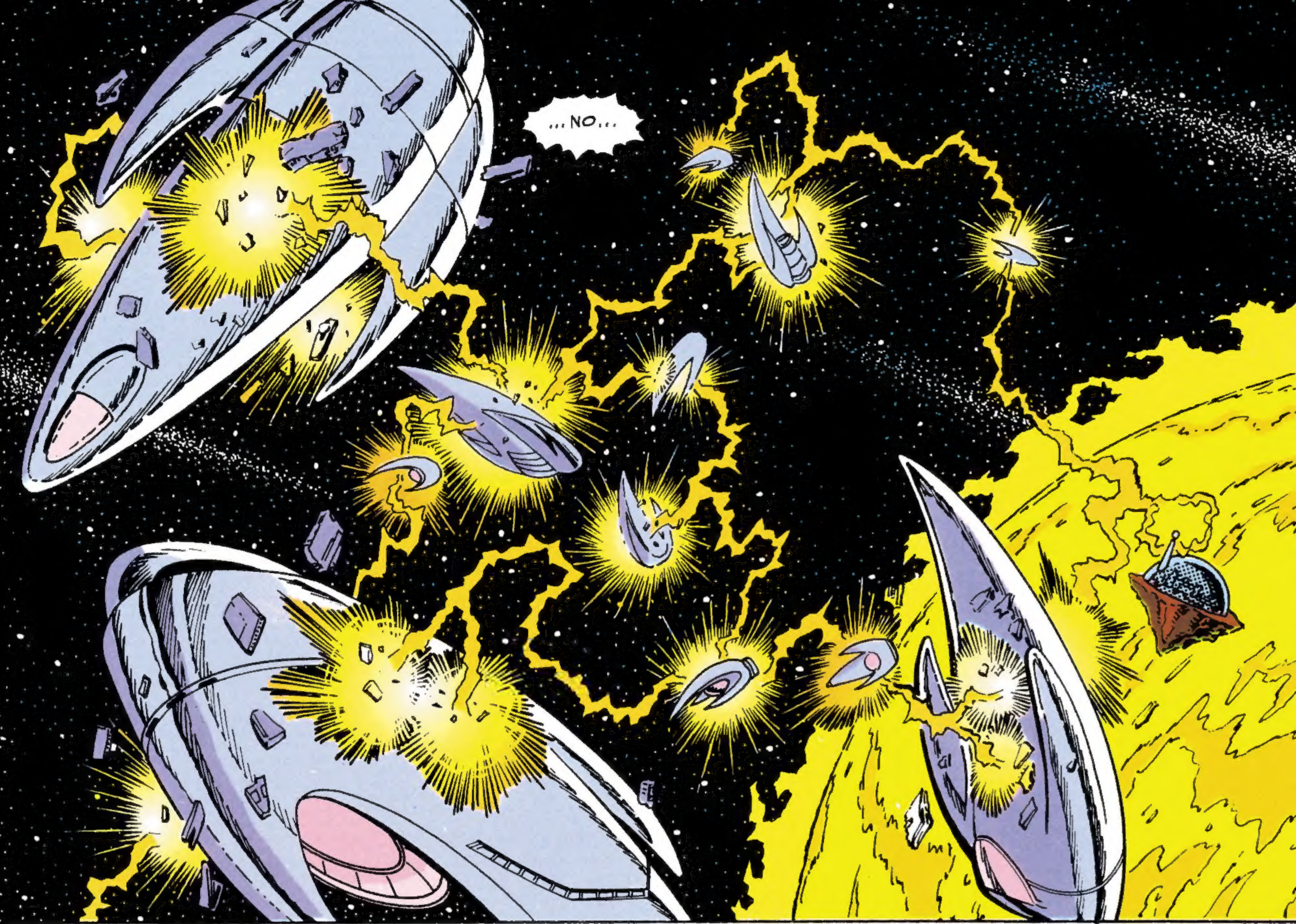
NO!  
NO!

IT'S FIRING!

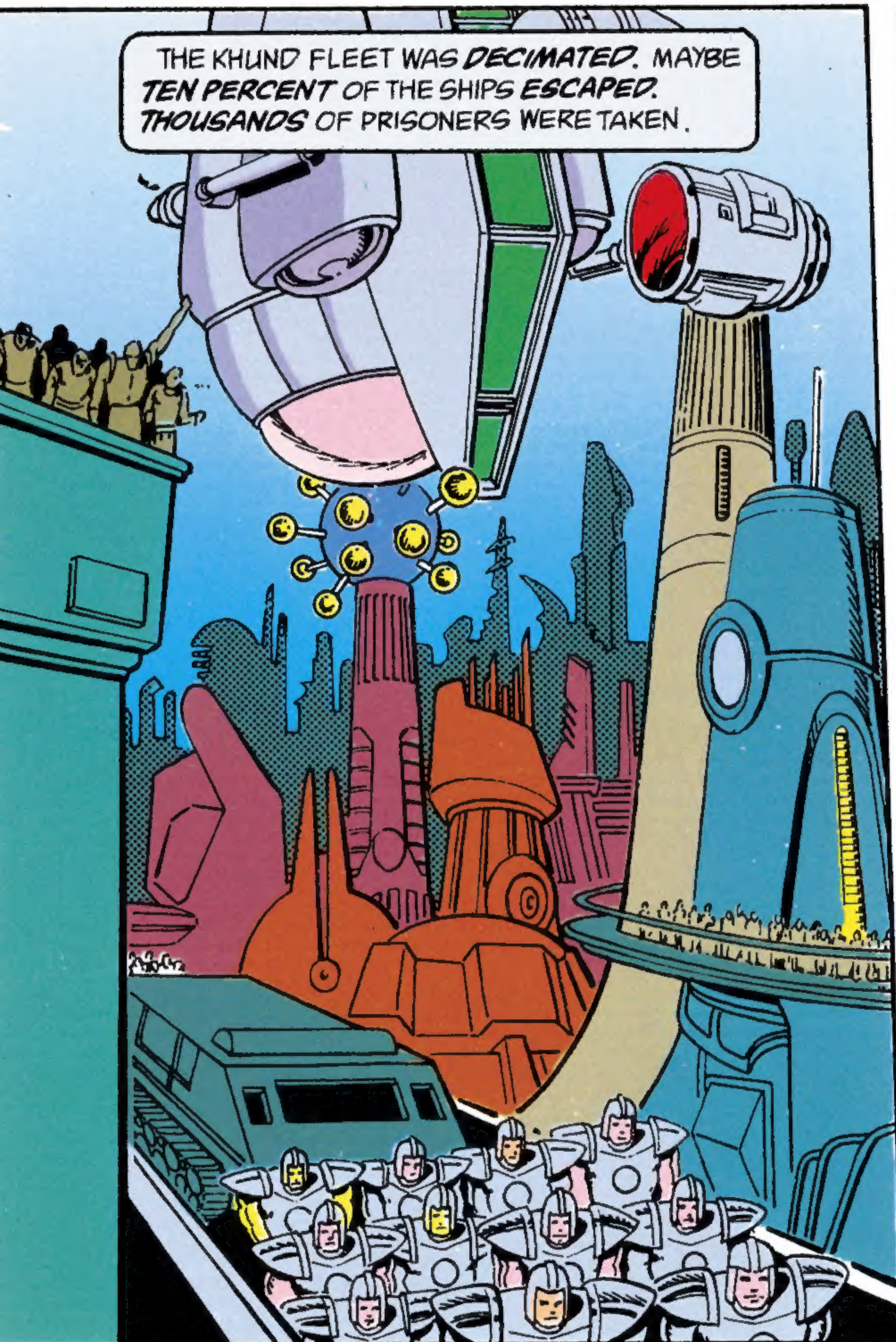
NO!

BLOODY MOTHER!





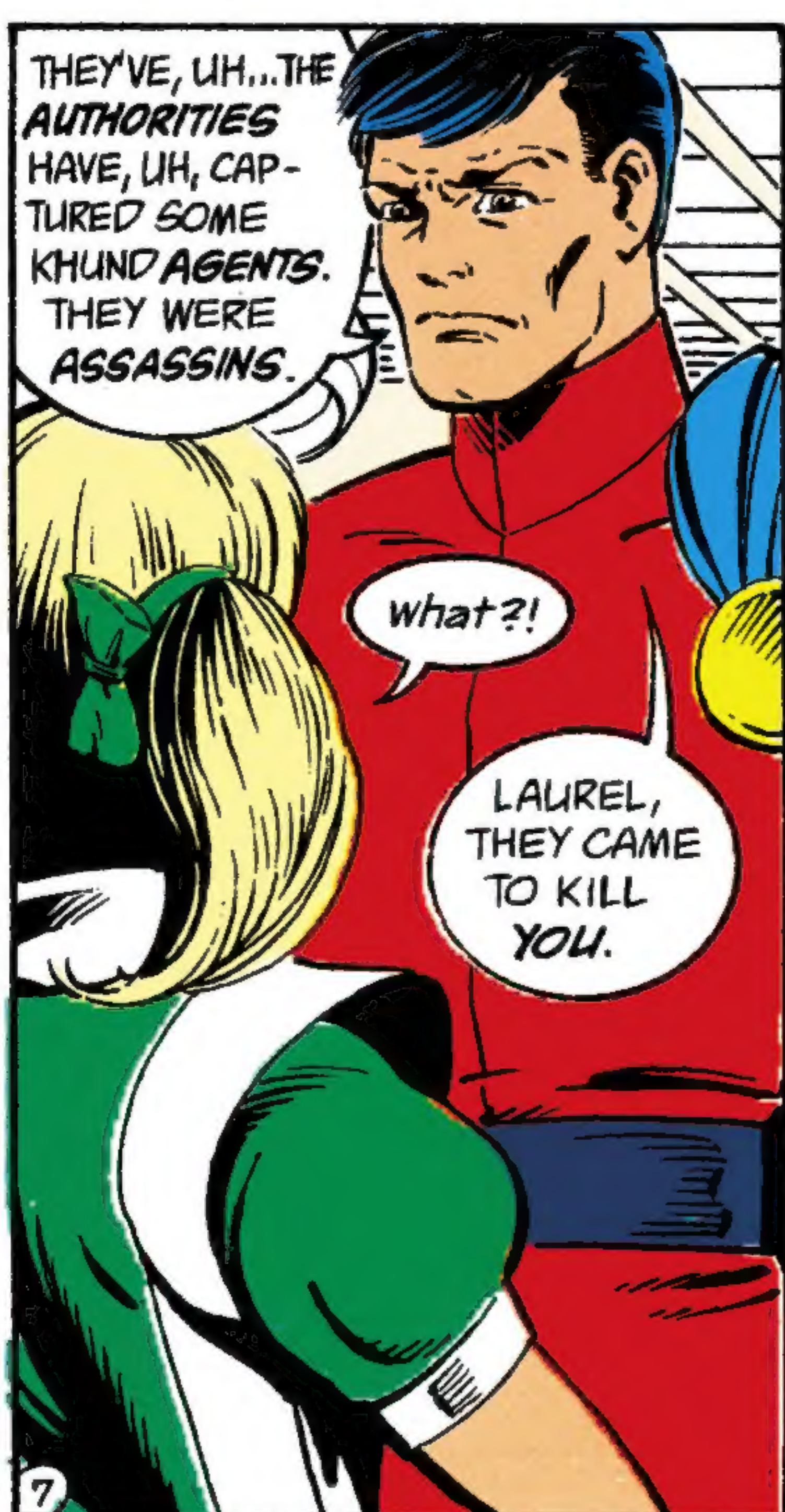
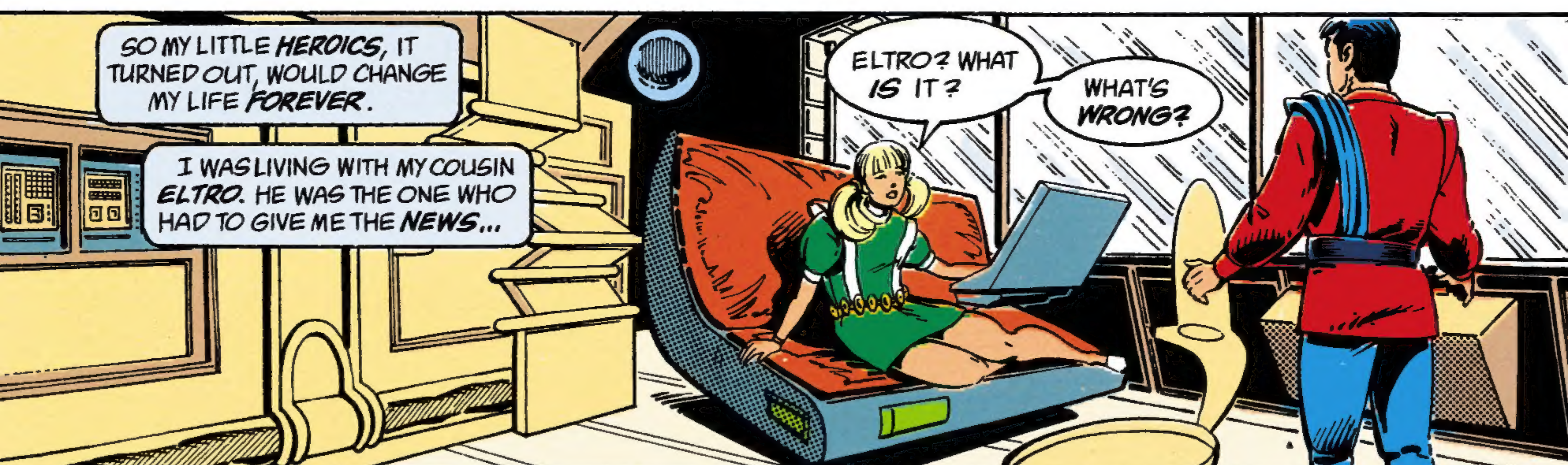
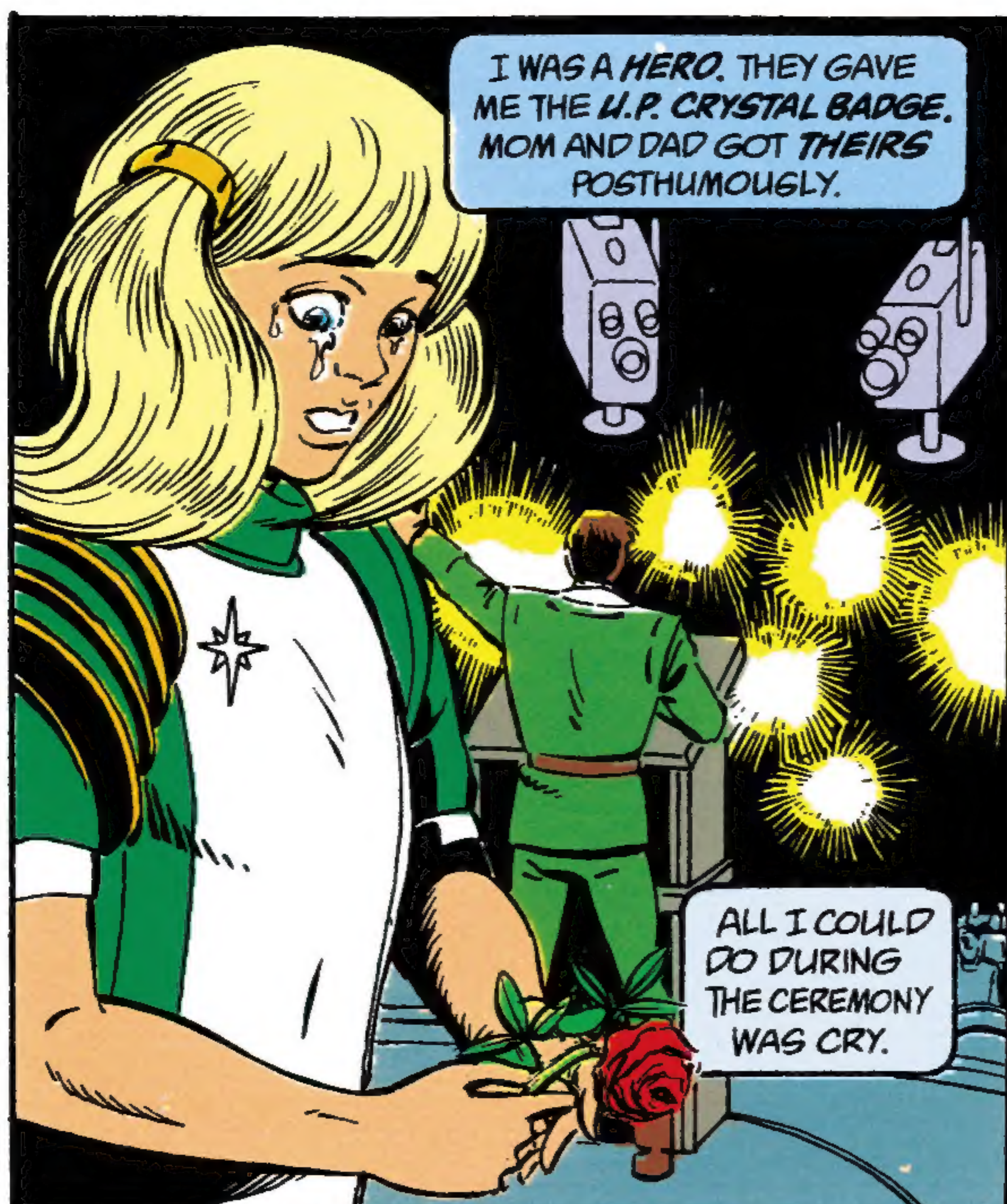
THE KHUND FLEET WAS *DECIMATED*. MAYBE *TEN PERCENT* OF THE SHIPS *ESCAPED*. *THOUSANDS* OF PRISONERS WERE TAKEN.



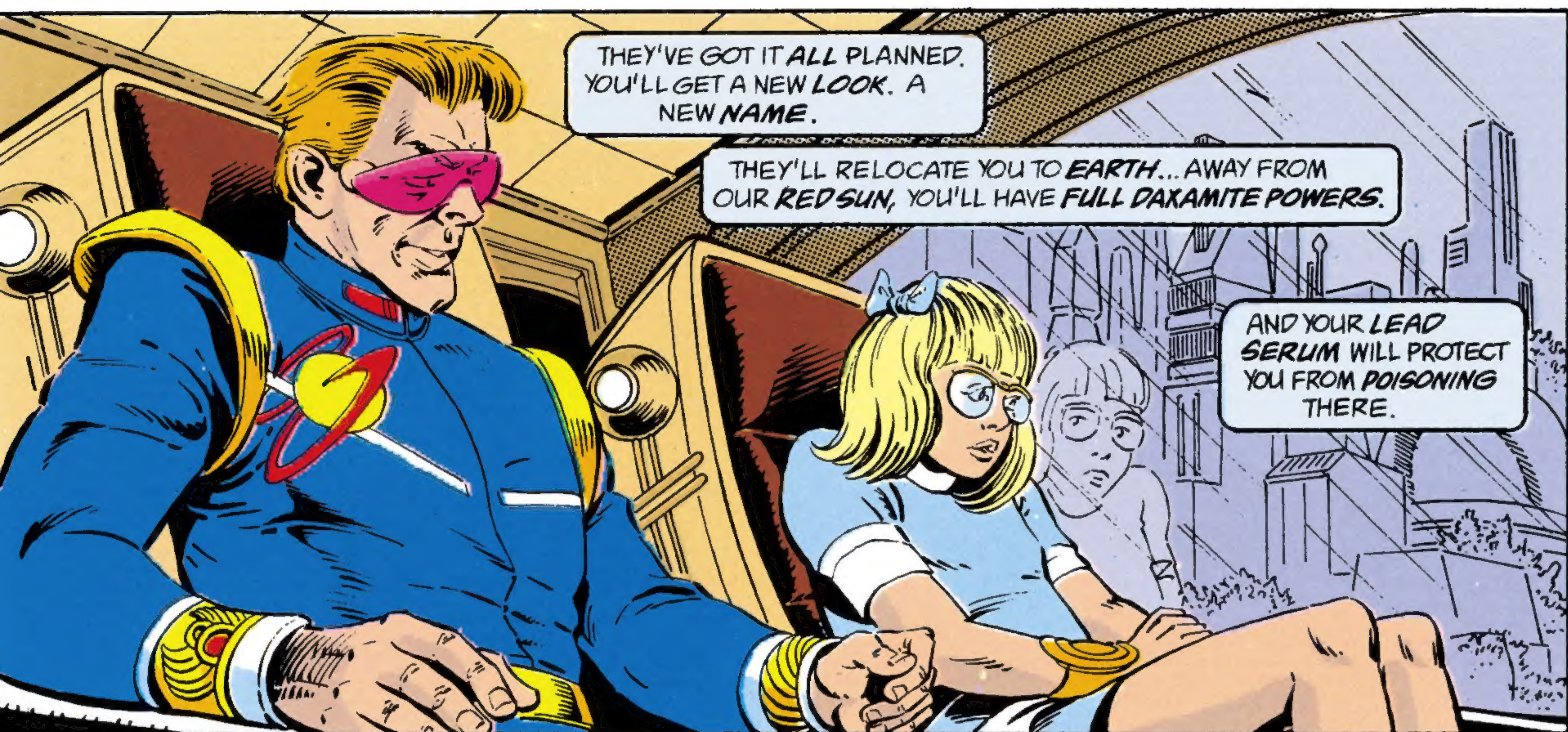
BUT AMONG THOSE WHO ESCAPED WAS ZARYAN.











THEY'VE GOT IT ALL PLANNED.  
YOU'LL GET A NEW LOOK. A  
NEW NAME.

THEY'LL RELOCATE YOU TO *EARTH*... AWAY FROM  
OUR *RED SUN*, YOU'LL HAVE *FULL DAXAMITE POWERS*.

AND YOUR *LEAD  
SERUM* WILL PROTECT  
YOU FROM *POISONING*  
THERE.

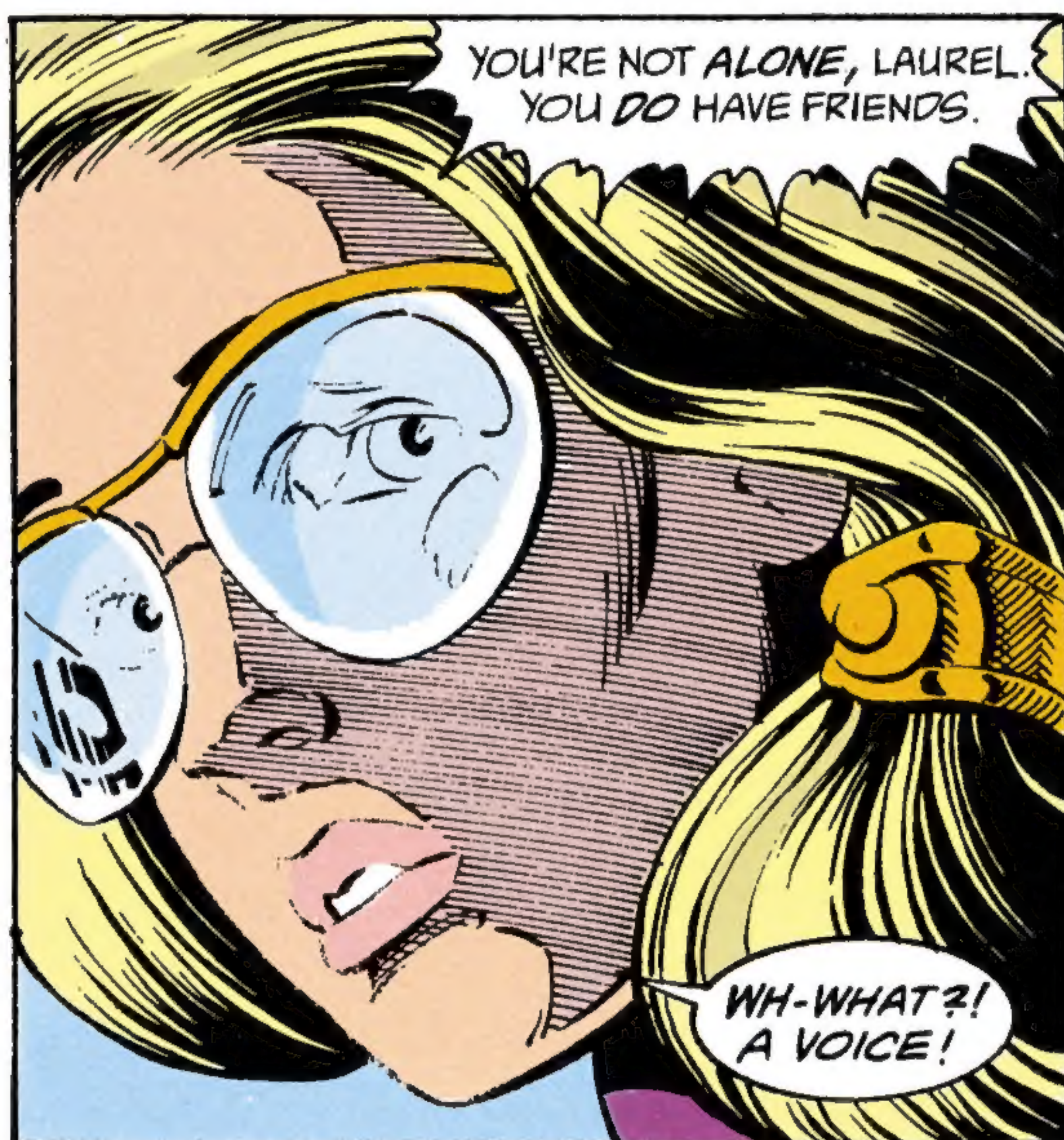
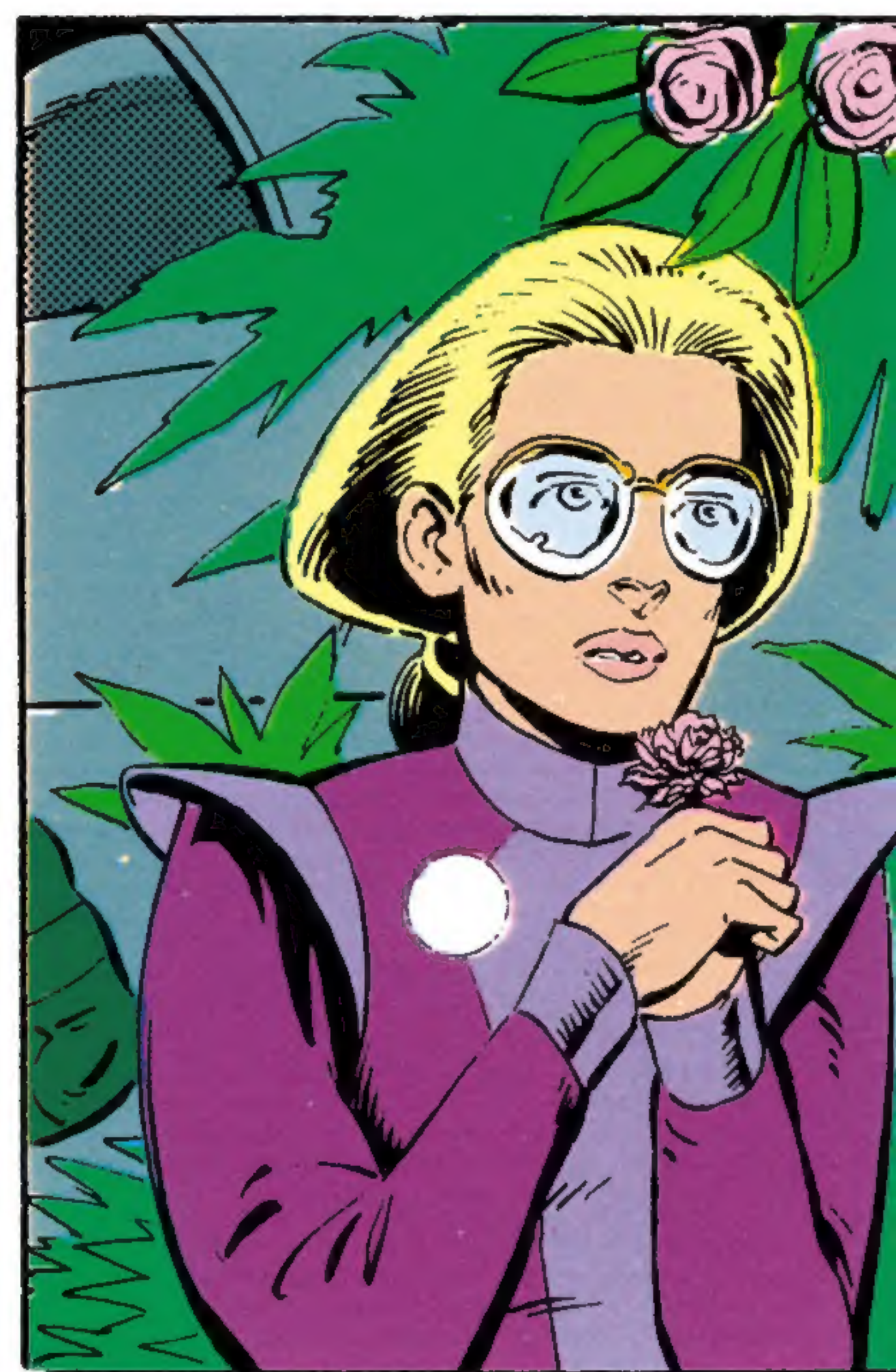


THERE'S AN *ORPHANAGE* IN  
FARGO WHERE YOU'LL BE *SAFE*...  
AND YOU'LL BE WITH *GIRLS*  
YOUR *OWN AGE*.



I'M SURE YOU'LL MAKE  
*LOTS OF FRIENDS*.

**ORPHANAGE**



YOU'RE NOT *ALONE*, LAUREL.  
YOU *DO* HAVE FRIENDS.

WH-WHAT?!  
A VOICE!

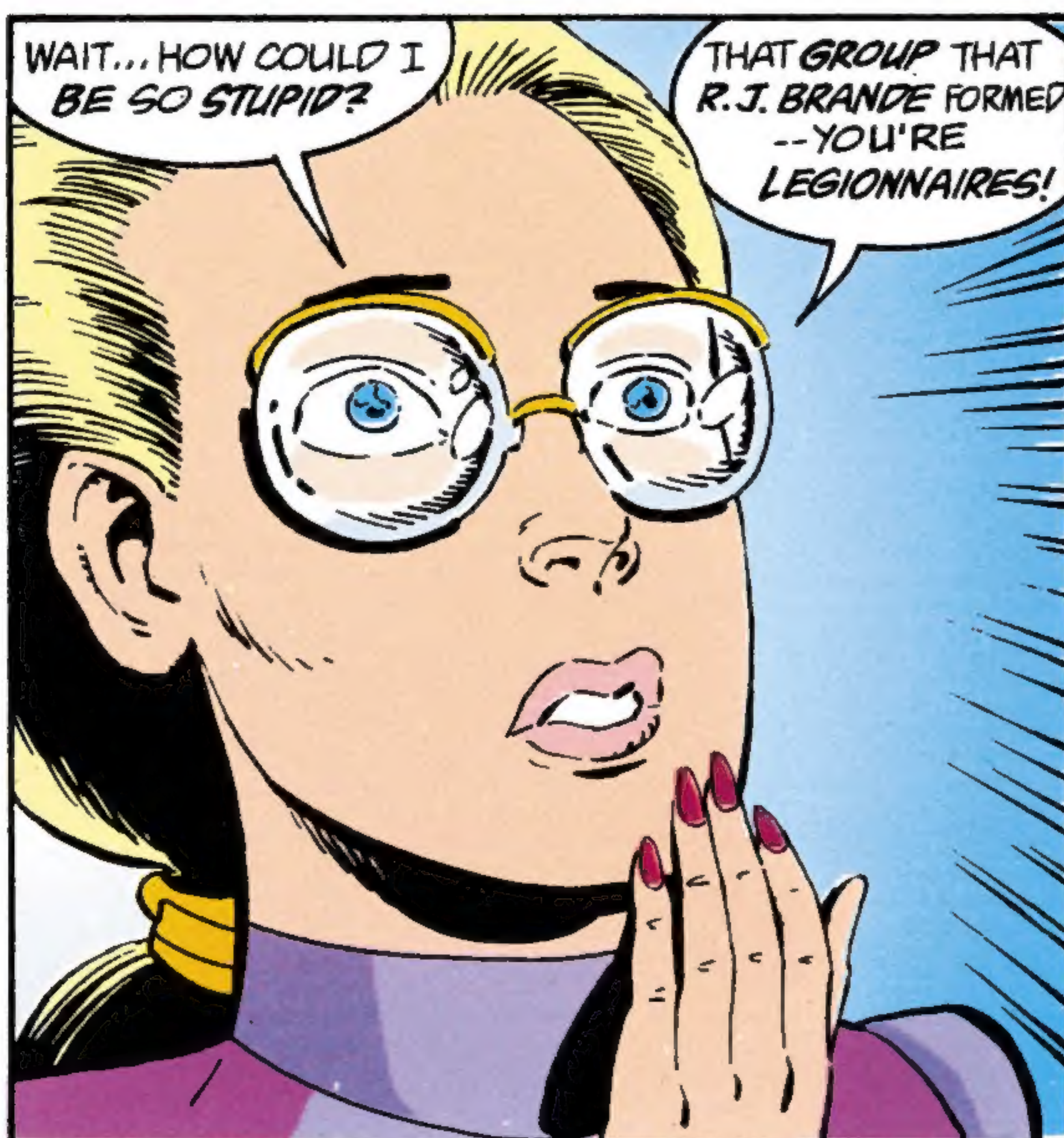
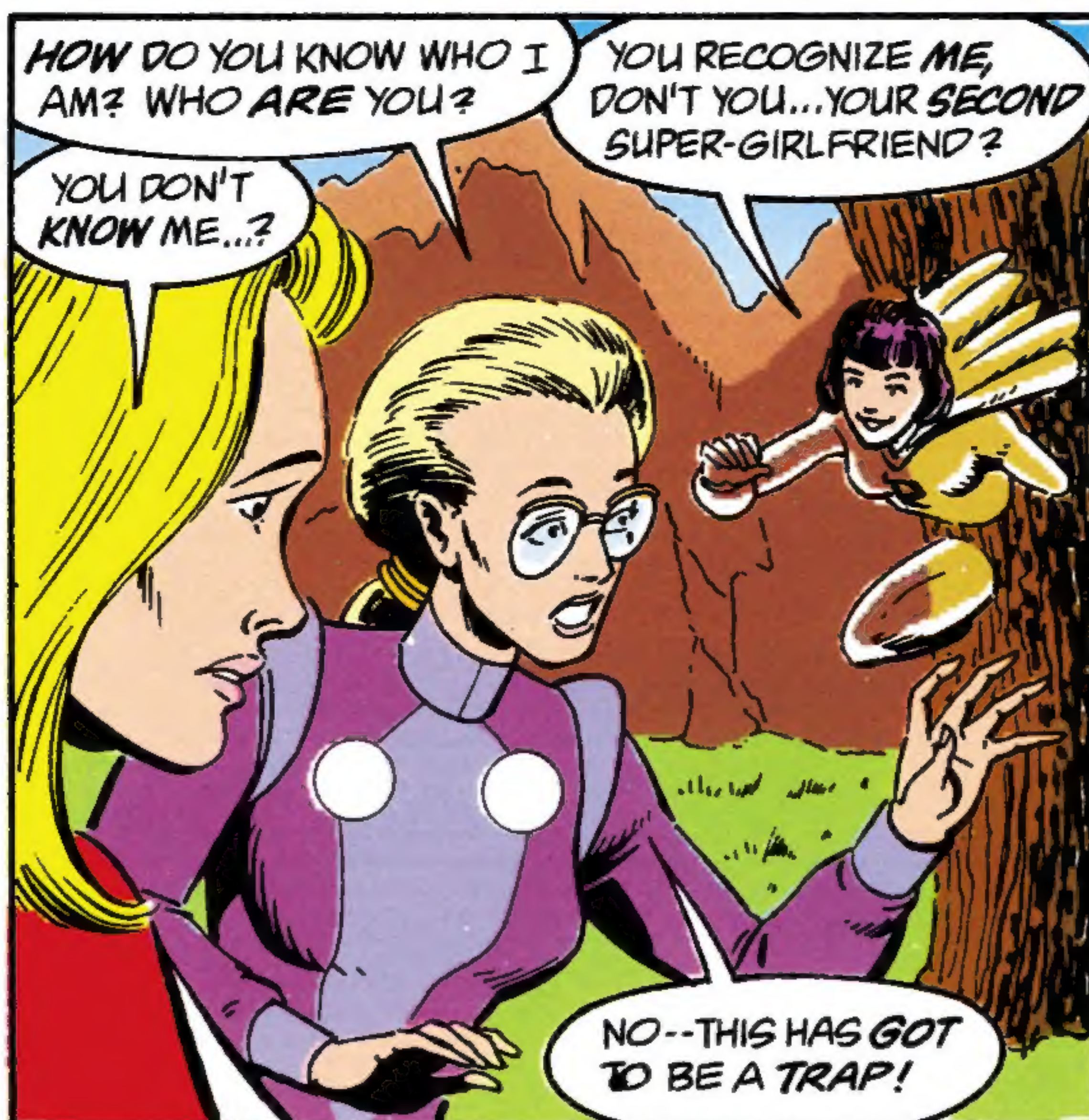
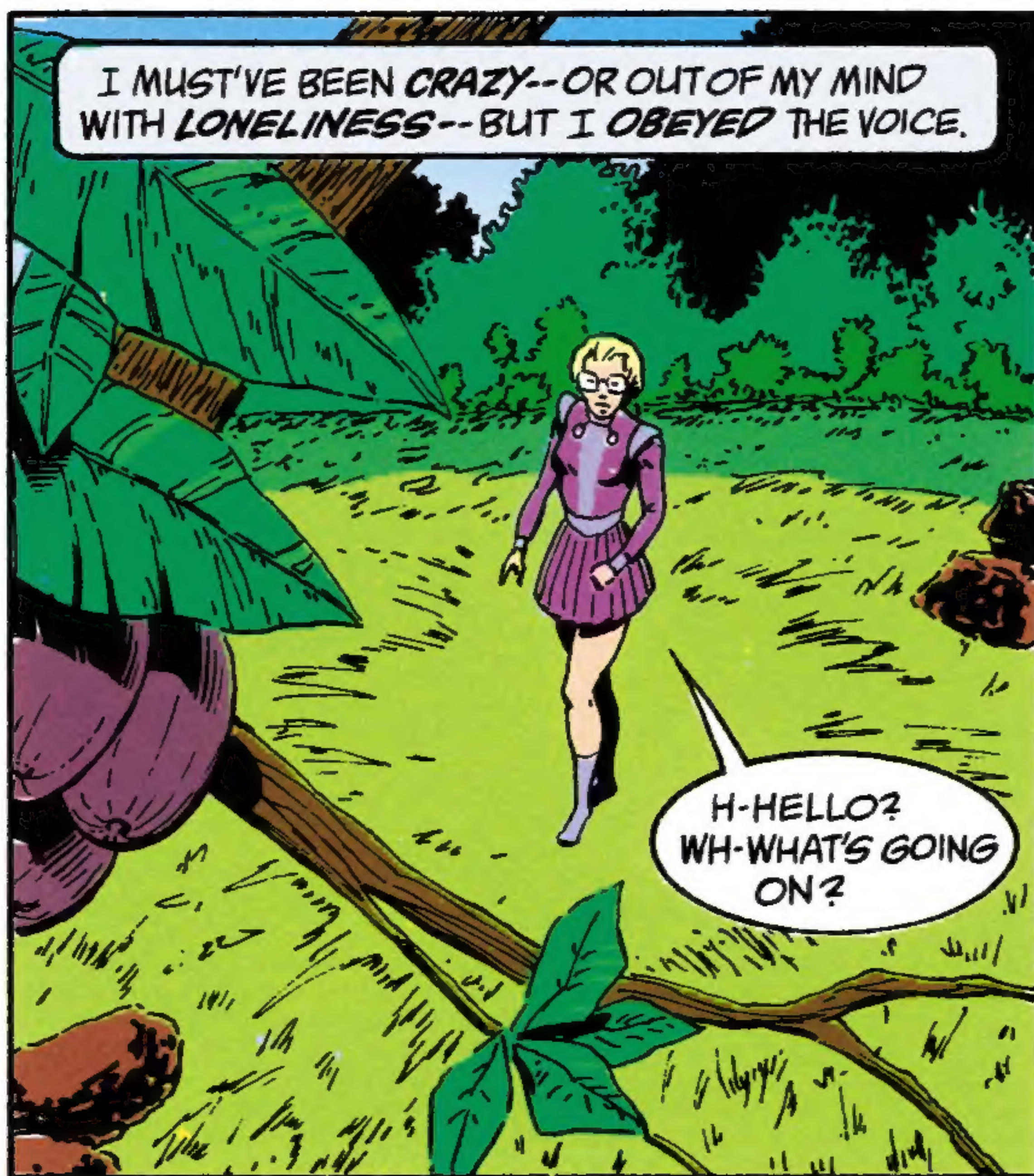


WE WANT TO *HELP* YOU,  
LAUREL. MEET ME AT THE FIELD  
NEAR *CRANSTON CREEK*.

DON'T BE  
*FRIGHTENED*.  
JUST MEET ME  
THERE.

OH, MY  
*GOD!*









WE REALLY DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU. WE THOUGHT YOU'D RECOGNIZE OUR UNIFORMS.

YEAH, EVERYBODY'S HEARD OF THE LEGION. I GUESS I WAS JUST IN A FOG...

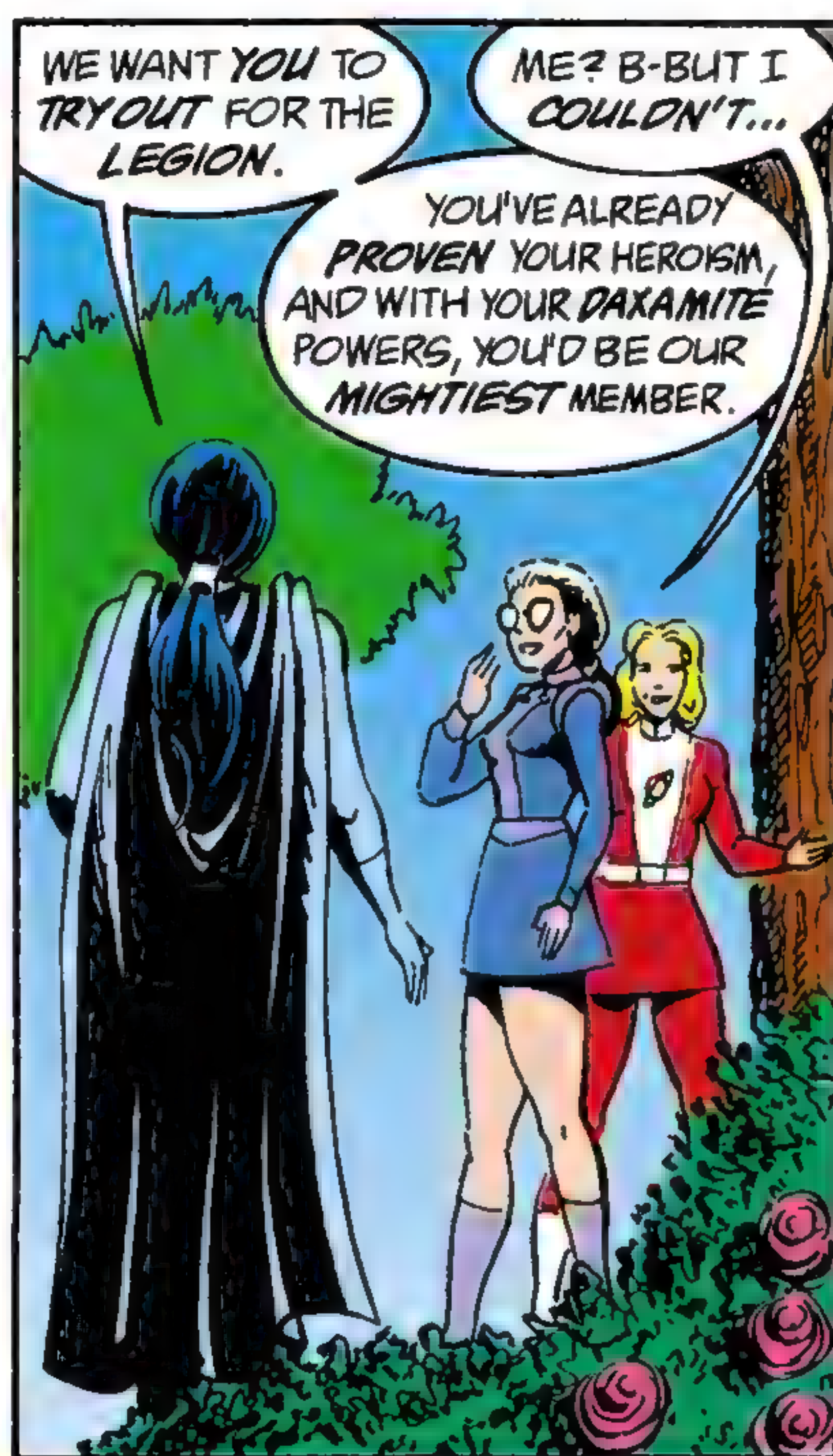


...I'VE BEEN SORTA DOWN LATELY, I GUESS.

LISTEN, LAUREL-- WE KNOW ALL ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE GONE THROUGH, AND HOW LONELY IT IS FOR YOU OUT HERE.

Y-YOU DO?

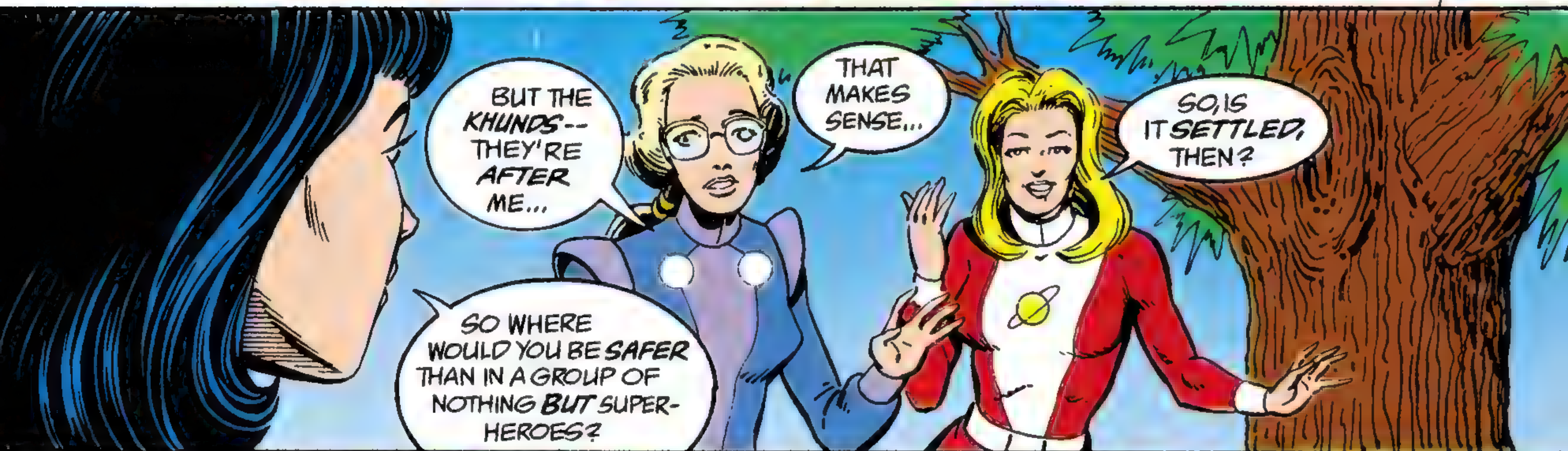
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.



WE WANT YOU TO TRY OUT FOR THE LEGION.

ME? B-BUT I COULDN'T...

YOU'VE ALREADY PROVEN YOUR HEROISM, AND WITH YOUR DAXAMITE POWERS, YOU'D BE OUR MIGHTIEST MEMBER.



BUT THE KHUNDS-- THEY'RE AFTER ME...

THAT MAKES SENSE...

SO, IS IT SETTLED, THEN?

SO WHERE WOULD YOU BE SAFER THAN IN A GROUP OF NOTHING BUT SUPER-HEROES?



YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE IT WAS SETTLED...

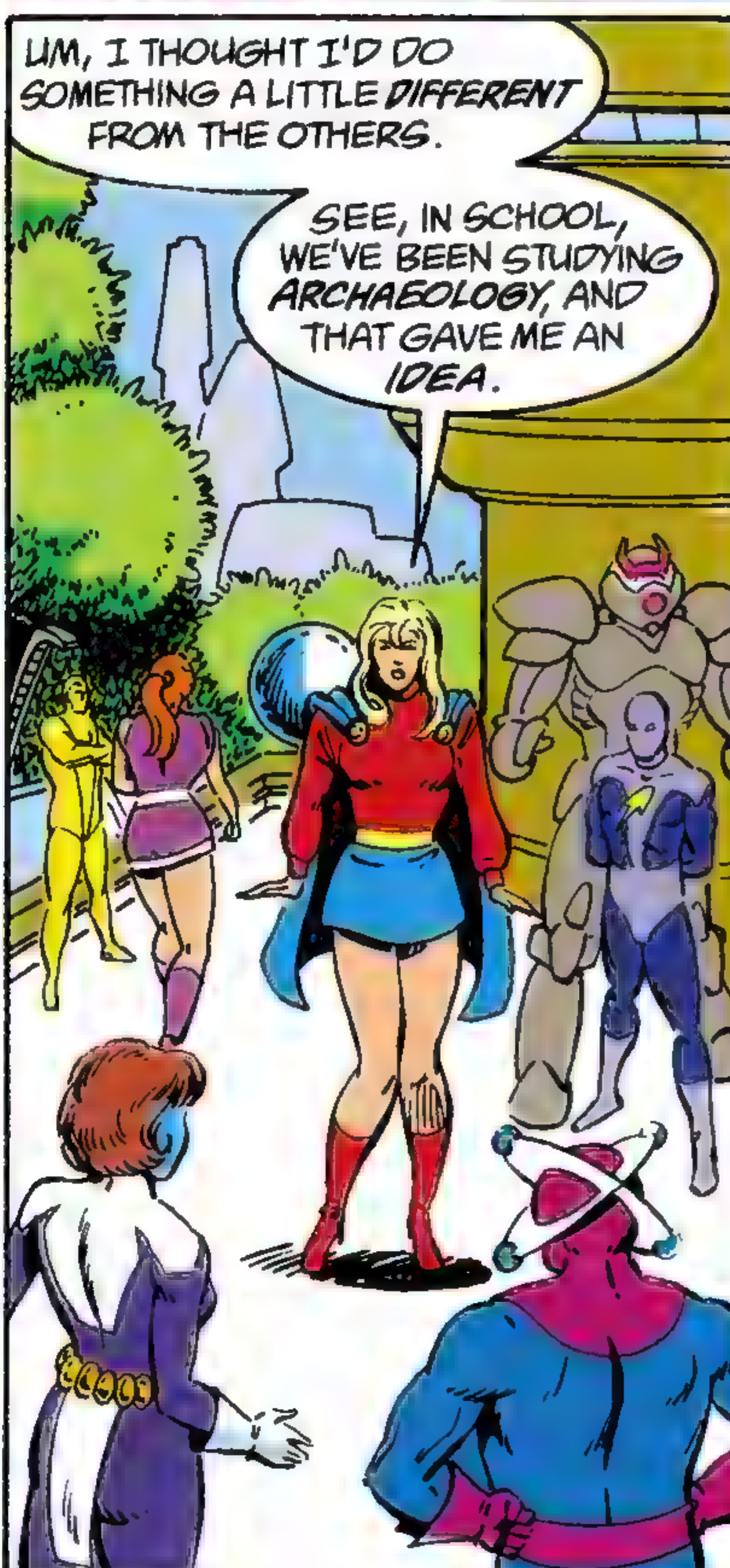
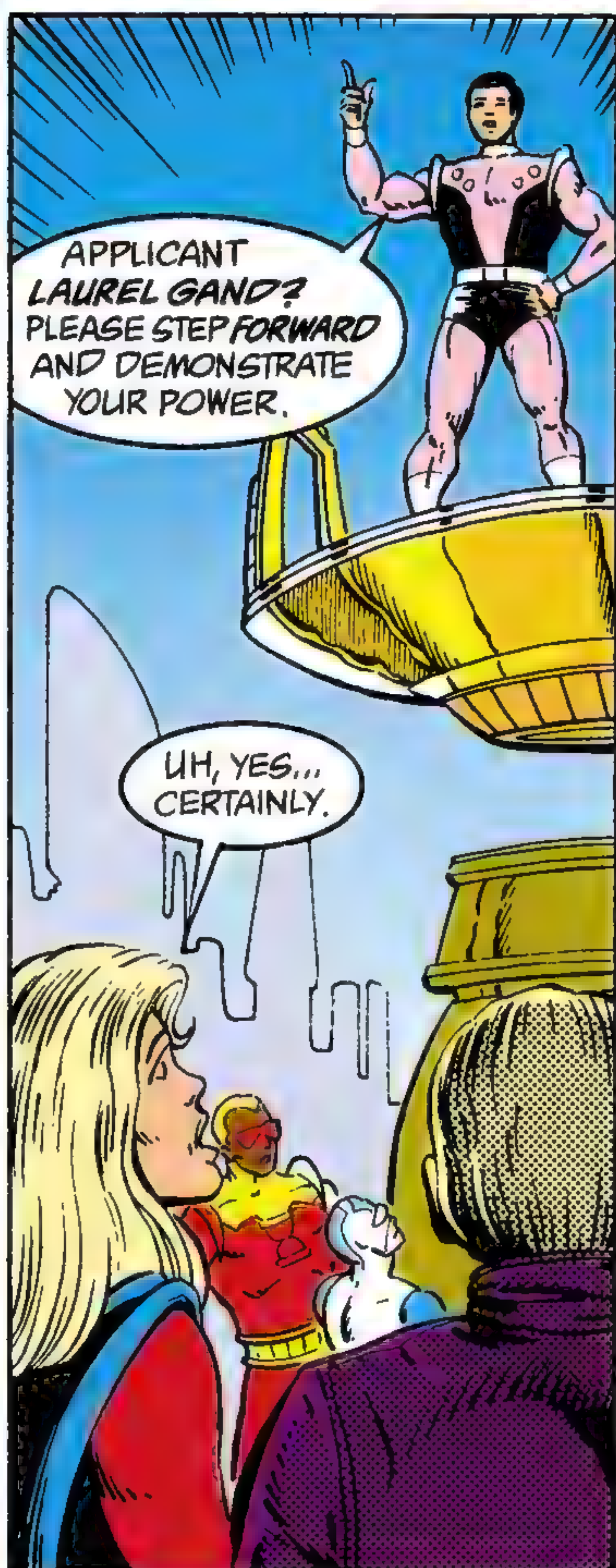
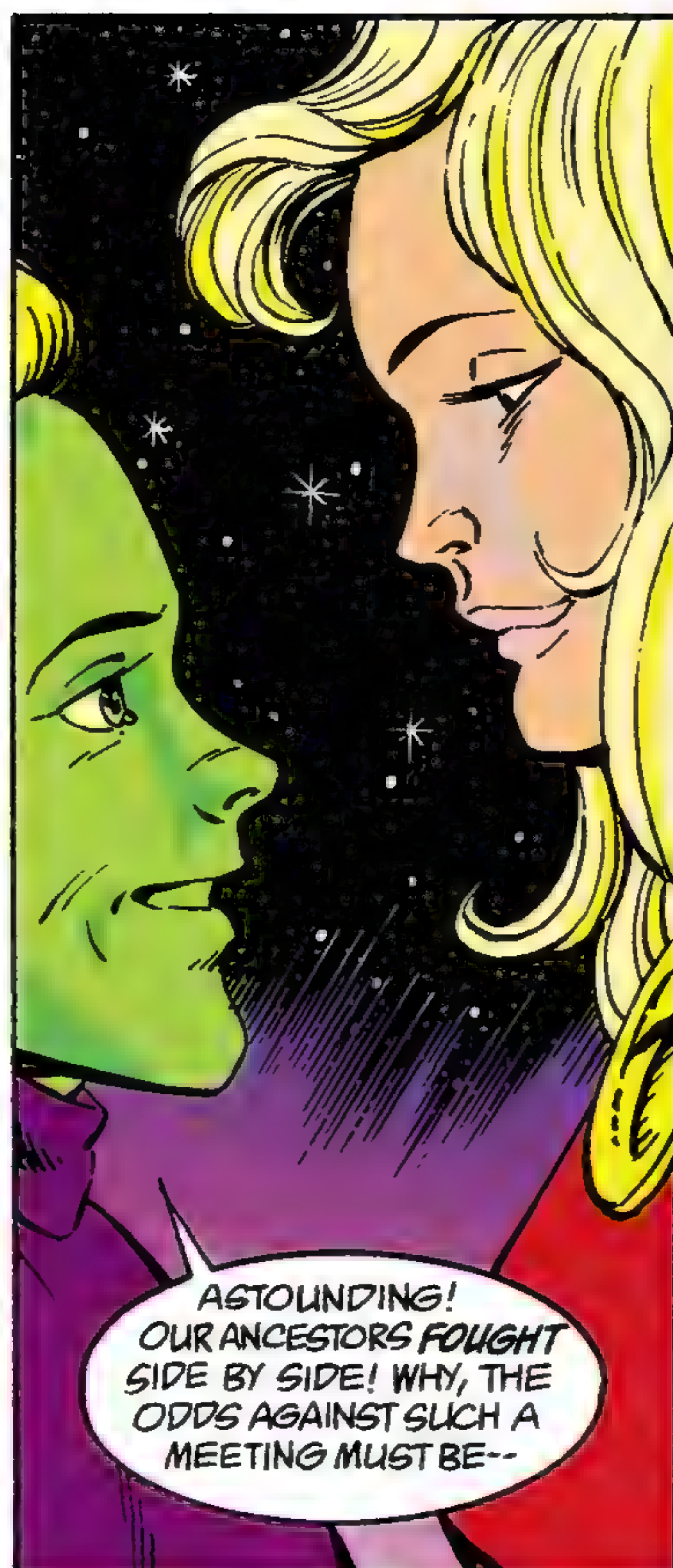
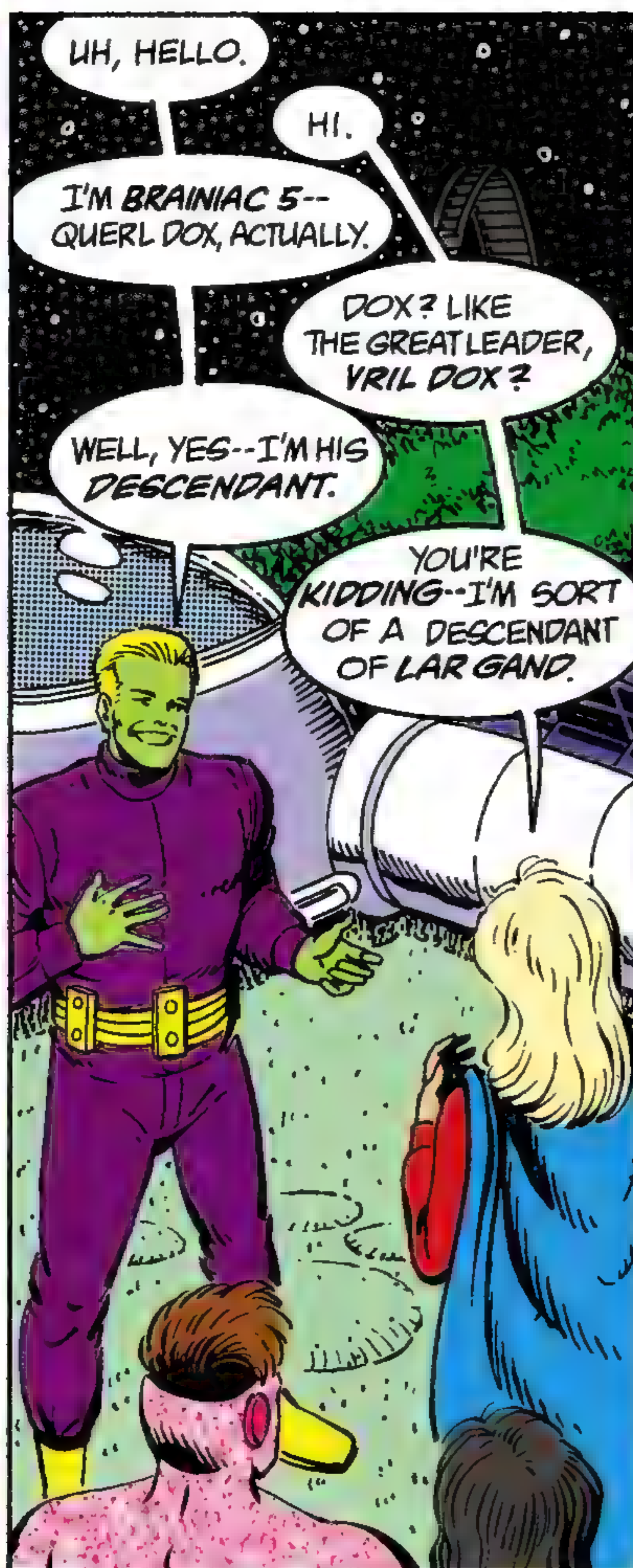
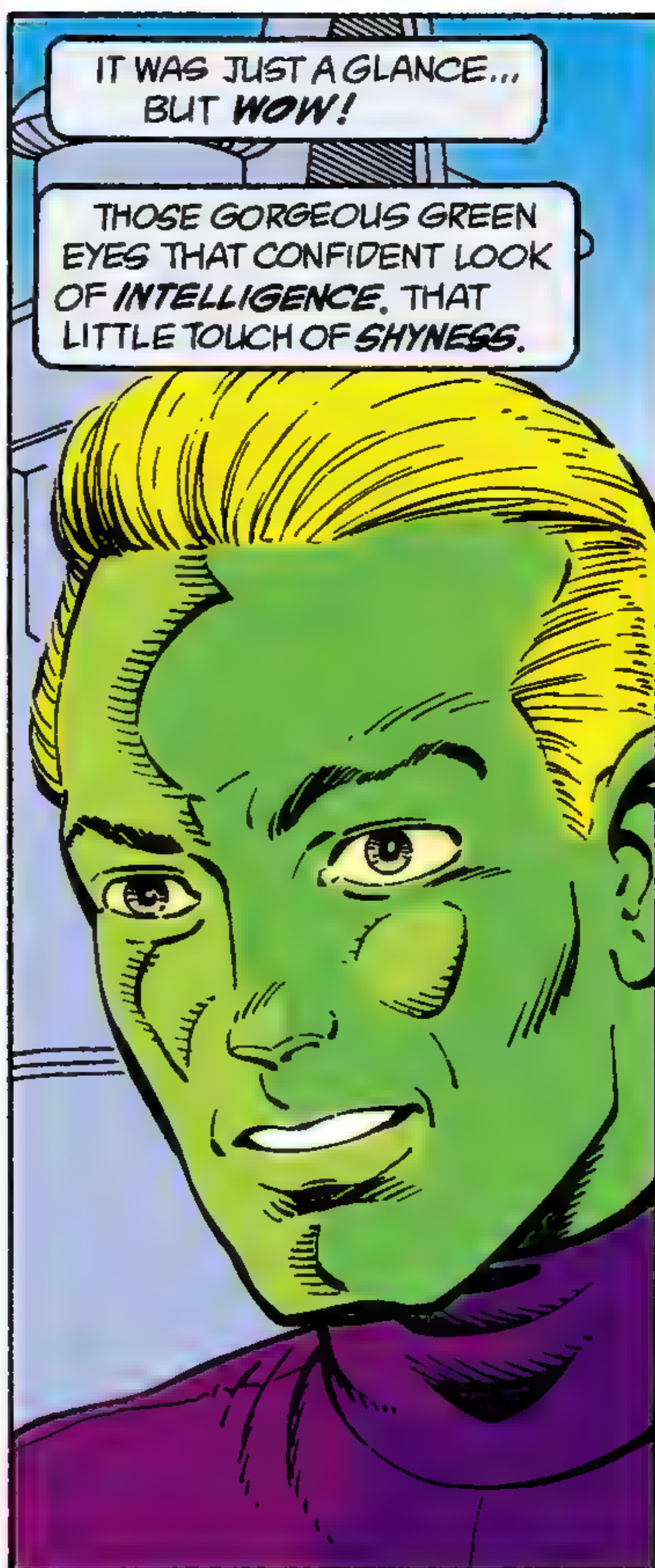
WELCOME, APPLICANTS, AND GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT NOTHING BUT MY TRYOUT...

...let's see... in school I've been... WOW-- WHO'S THAT?!

...UNTIL I SAW HIM.









USING MY SUPER-SPEED, X-RAY VISION, AND SUPER-SENSES, I LOCATED AND GENTLY EXCAVATED SOME OF THE GREAT LOST TREASURES OF EARTH HISTORY...

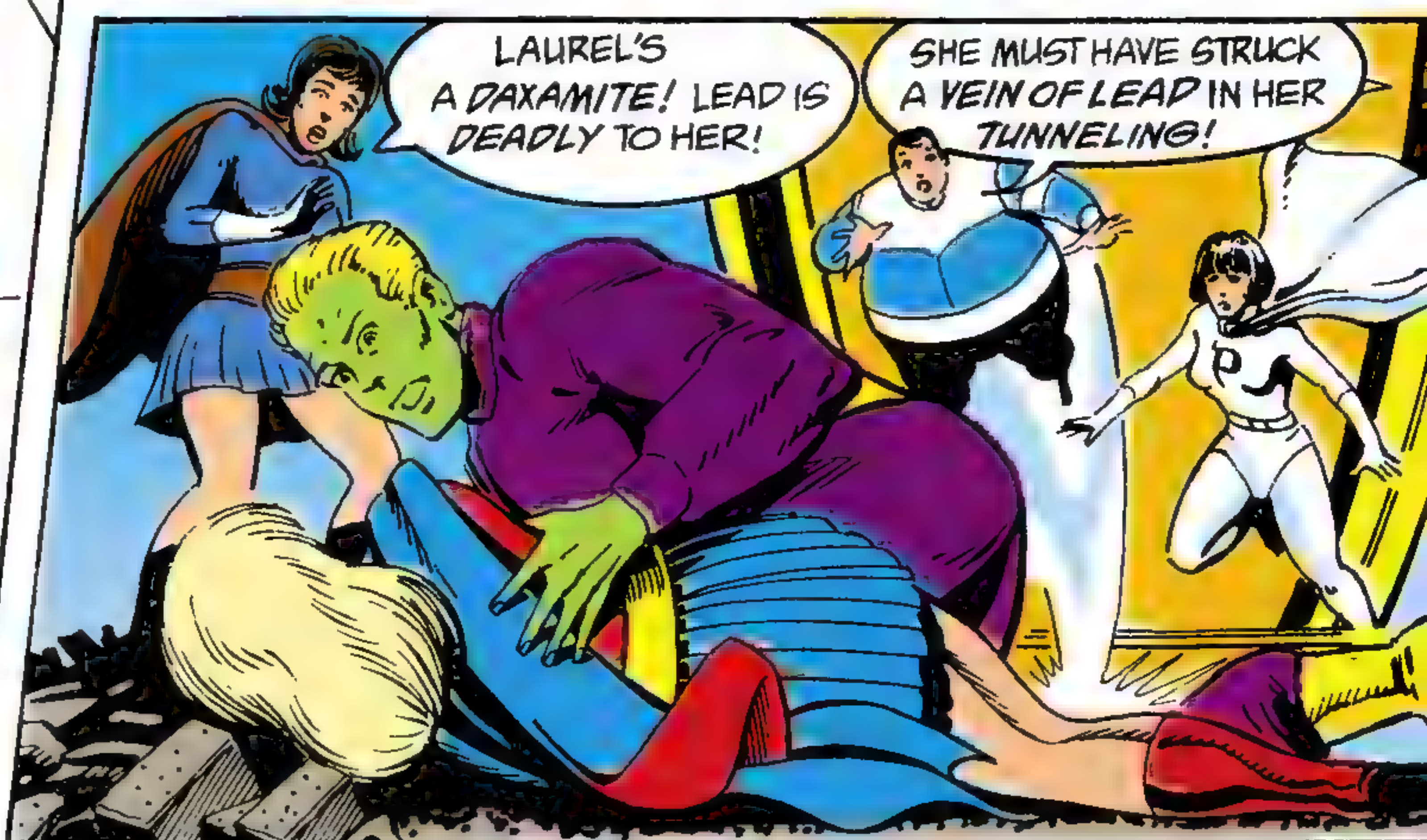
THIS IS AMAZING--  
ACHILLES'S HELMET!  
KING ARTHUR'S  
SWORD, EXCALIBUR!



BUT ON THE *LAST* TRIP,  
SOMETHING WENT WRONG!

LAUREL, WHAT'S  
THE MATTER ?!

FEELS  
LIKE... LEAD  
POISONING!



LAUREL'S  
A DAXAMITE! LEAD IS  
DEADLY TO HER!

SHE MUST HAVE STRUCK  
A VEIN OF LEAD IN HER  
TUNNELING!



THEY RUSHED MY DYING BODY  
TO THEIR INFIRMARY, WHERE...

WE'RE REALLY  
GOING TO HAVE TO  
WORK *FAST*!

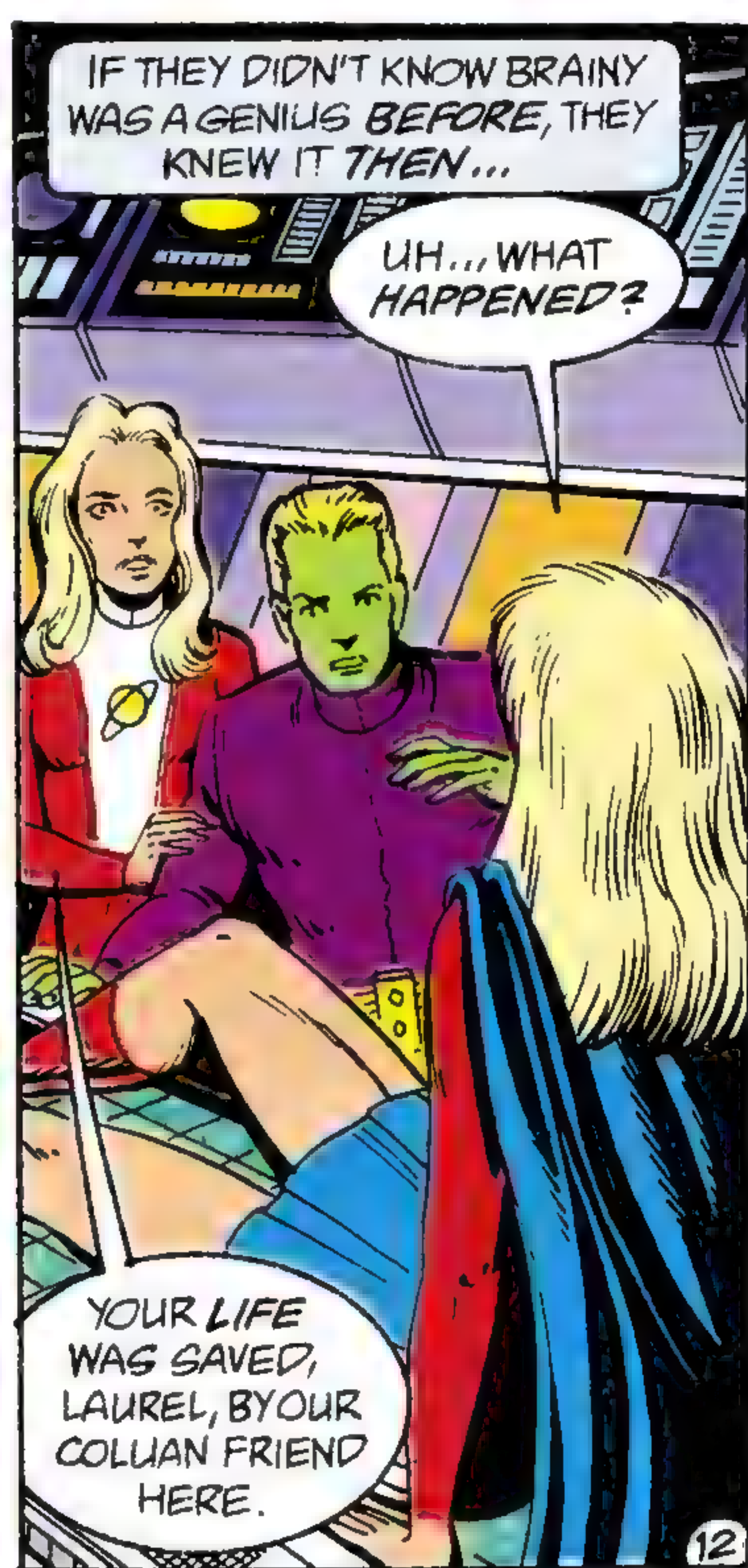
LAUREL'S  
LIFE IS AT  
STAKE!



BRAINY'S ALWAYS HAD A WAY  
ABOUT HIM. SOMEHOW, THEY  
KNEW TO TRUST HIM...

YES...YES. SHE'S  
BEEN TAKING AN ANTI-LEAD  
SERUM, BUT SHE'S BUILT UP  
AN IMMUNITY TO IT.

HOWEVER, I  
THINK I CAN MODIFY  
THE FORMULA...



IF THEY DIDN'T KNOW BRAINY  
WAS A GENIUS BEFORE, THEY  
KNEW IT THEN...

UH... WHAT  
HAPPENED?

YOUR LIFE  
WAS SAVED,  
LAUREL, BY OUR  
COLUAN FRIEND  
HERE.



EASY, NOW--  
YOU'RE STILL  
WEAK.

BRAINIAC-5...?

HOW DID  
YOU...?

IT WAS A *SIMPLE*  
MODIFICATION OF YOUR  
SERUM, REALLY. AND  
THIS CURE SHOULD BE  
A *PERMANENT* ONE.

BUT...H-HOW  
DO I THANK  
YOU?

WELL, BY  
...UH...

BY  
AGREEING  
TO JOIN HIM AT  
THE *INDUCTION*  
CEREMONIES.

INDUCTION--  
YOU MEAN...?

I MEAN YOU'VE  
*BOTH* BEEN VOTED INTO THE  
LEGION! WELCOME ABOARD!

AND IF *THAT* WASN'T THE PROUDEST  
MOMENT OF MY LIFE, IT CAME  
AWFULLY *CLOSE*...

CONGRATULATIONS,  
LAUREL.

THANK  
YOU, COSMIC  
BOY.

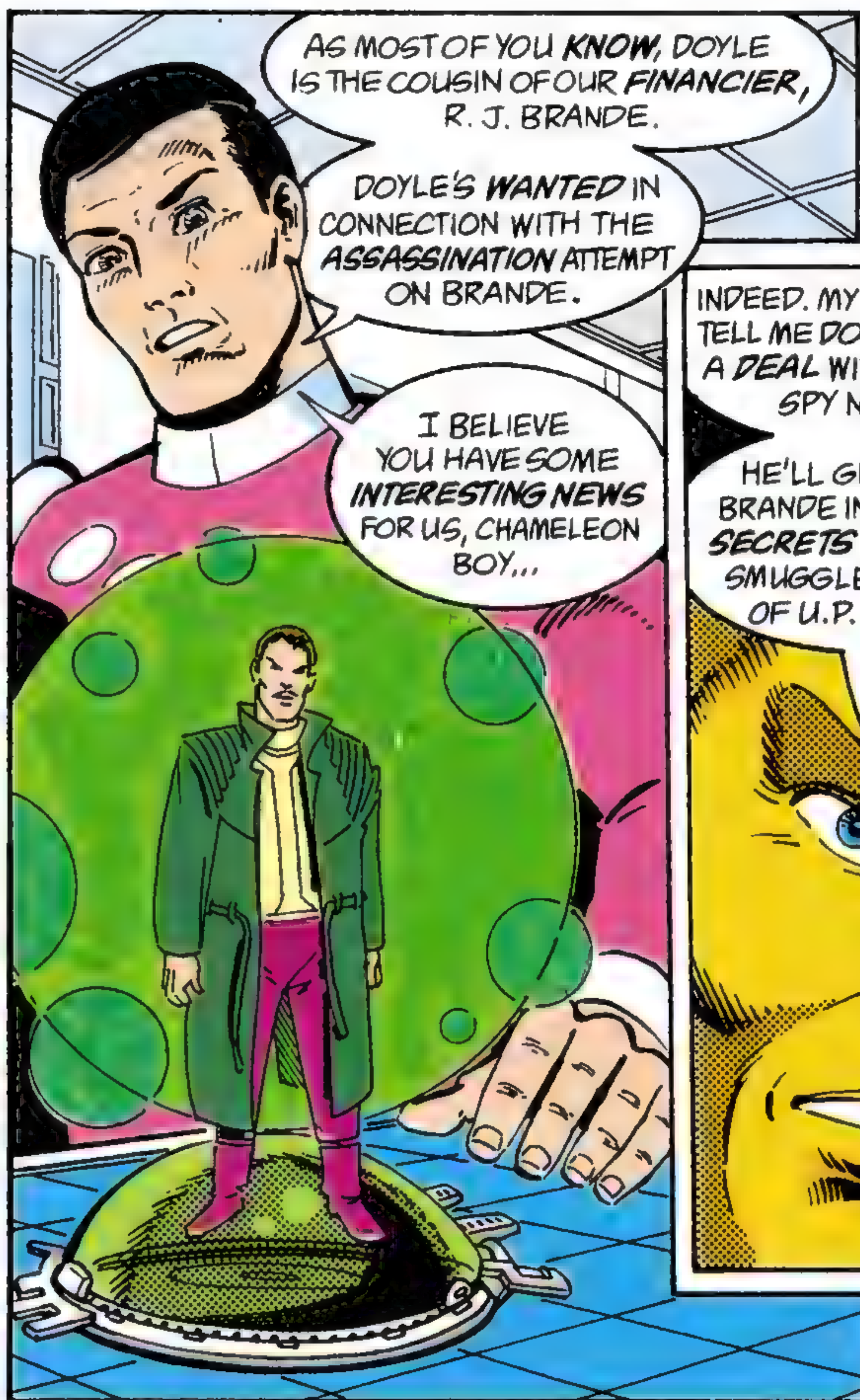
T-TIGER  
ROSES!

AT LAST, I WAS  
STARTING TO FEEL  
LIKE I HAD A  
FAMILY AGAIN...

...BUT, AS IT TURNED OUT,  
THIS WAS A *HARD-WORKING*  
FAMILY. WE THEN WENT  
STRAIGHT TO OUR *FIRST*  
LEGION MEETING...

I'VE ASKED  
CHAMELEON BOY  
TO CHECK UP ON THE  
WHEREABOUTS OF  
DOYLE BRANDE.





AS MOST OF YOU *KNOW*, DOYLE IS THE COUSIN OF OUR *FINANCIER*, R. J. BRANDE.

DOYLE'S *WANTED* IN CONNECTION WITH THE *ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT* ON BRANDE.

I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOME *INTERESTING NEWS* FOR US, CHAMELEON BOY...

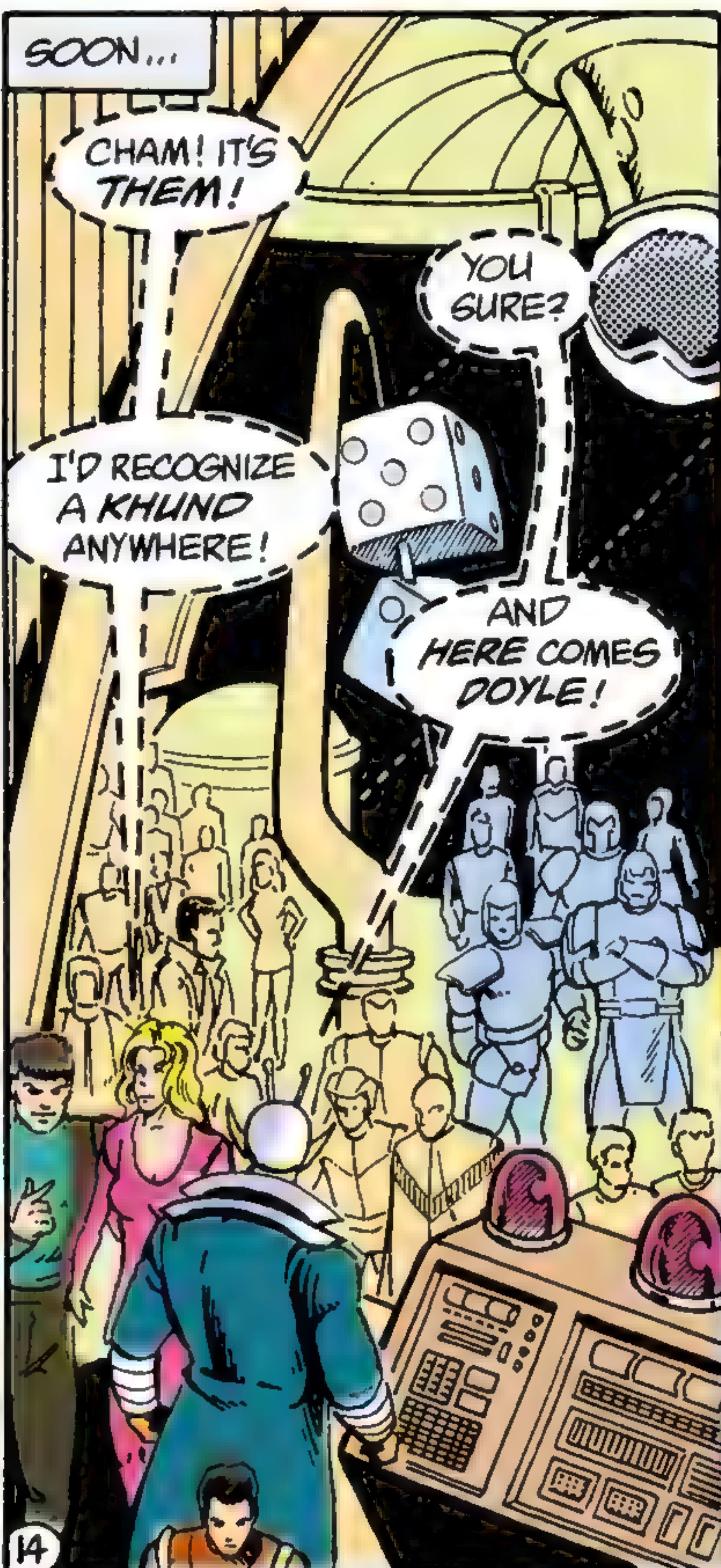
INDEED. MY *SOURCES* TELL ME DOYLE HAS MADE A *DEAL* WITH THE *KHUND* SPY NETWORK.

HE'LL GIVE THEM BRANDE *INDUSTRY SECRETS* IF THEY'LL *SMUGGLE HIM* OUT OF U.P. SPACE.



THEY'VE PLANNED TO *RENDEZVOUS* AT THE *HOTEL VALHALLA* ON RIMBOR.

I'D LIKE A COUPLE OF *VOLUNTEERS* TO HELP ME *STAKE OUT* THE PLACE... *INCOGNITO*, OF COURSE!



SOON...

CHAM! IT'S *THEM*!

YOU SURE?

I'D RECOGNIZE A *KHUND* ANYWHERE!

AND HERE COMES DOYLE!



OKAY...EASY. WE CAN'T LET THEM *KNOW* THEY'RE BEING WATCHED...

MA'AM, I DON'T *ENTERTAIN* MYSELF IN SUCH A *MANNER*!

HMMM... WHAT'S *BRAINY* DOING?



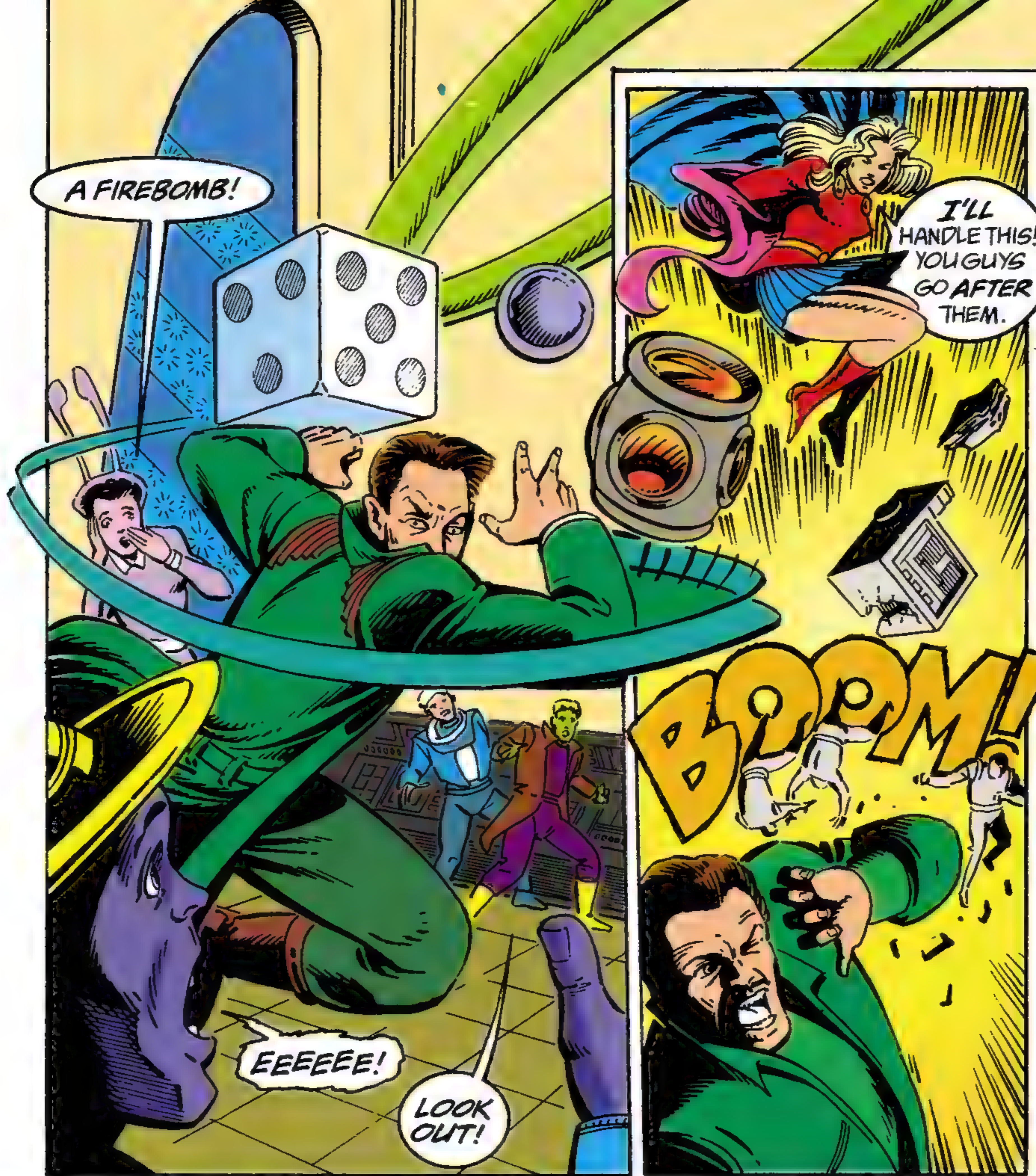
MA'AM, PLEASE--  
-ulp!-

HEY--HE'S GOT A *WIRE*! I *KNEW* HE WAS A *COP*!

A *COP*! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT FIRST... SOMETHING TO KEEP 'EM *BUSY*!





THE KHUNDS MADE IT TO THEIR SHIP, AND WERE HOPING TO BEAT BRAINY AND CHAM OUT OF U.P. SPACE...

...BUT MR. BRANDE GAVE THE LEGION THE FASTEST SHIPS CREDITS COULD BUY.

THE CHASE WAS ALMOST OVER WHEN THEY CAME UPON ONE OF THE EERIEST SIGHTS IN THE GALAXY-- THE GREAT SHRINE ASTEROIDS--

--A SERIES OF BEAUTIFULLY CARVED ASTEROIDS LEFT BEHIND BY A LONG-DEAD CIVILIZATION.

FLEEING INTO THE BELT PROVED TO BE A MISTAKE...

THEY'RE TRAPPED, COSMIC BOY. WE'VE FORCED THEM DOWN ONTO THE PLANET.

OKAY. MOVE IN, BUT CAUTIOUSLY. THEY'LL BE DESPERATE.

COSMIC BOY HAD THAT RIGHT!

THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY...!

MY FORCEFIELD BELT--IT'LL WITHSTAND THEIR FIRE...





...THEIR WEAPONS CAN'T HARM US NOW!

OKAY, GENTLEMEN! IT'S TIME TO GIVE IT UP!

FINALLY, THEY AGREED...

WOMB OF THE DEMON! OUR WEAPONS-- EMPTY!

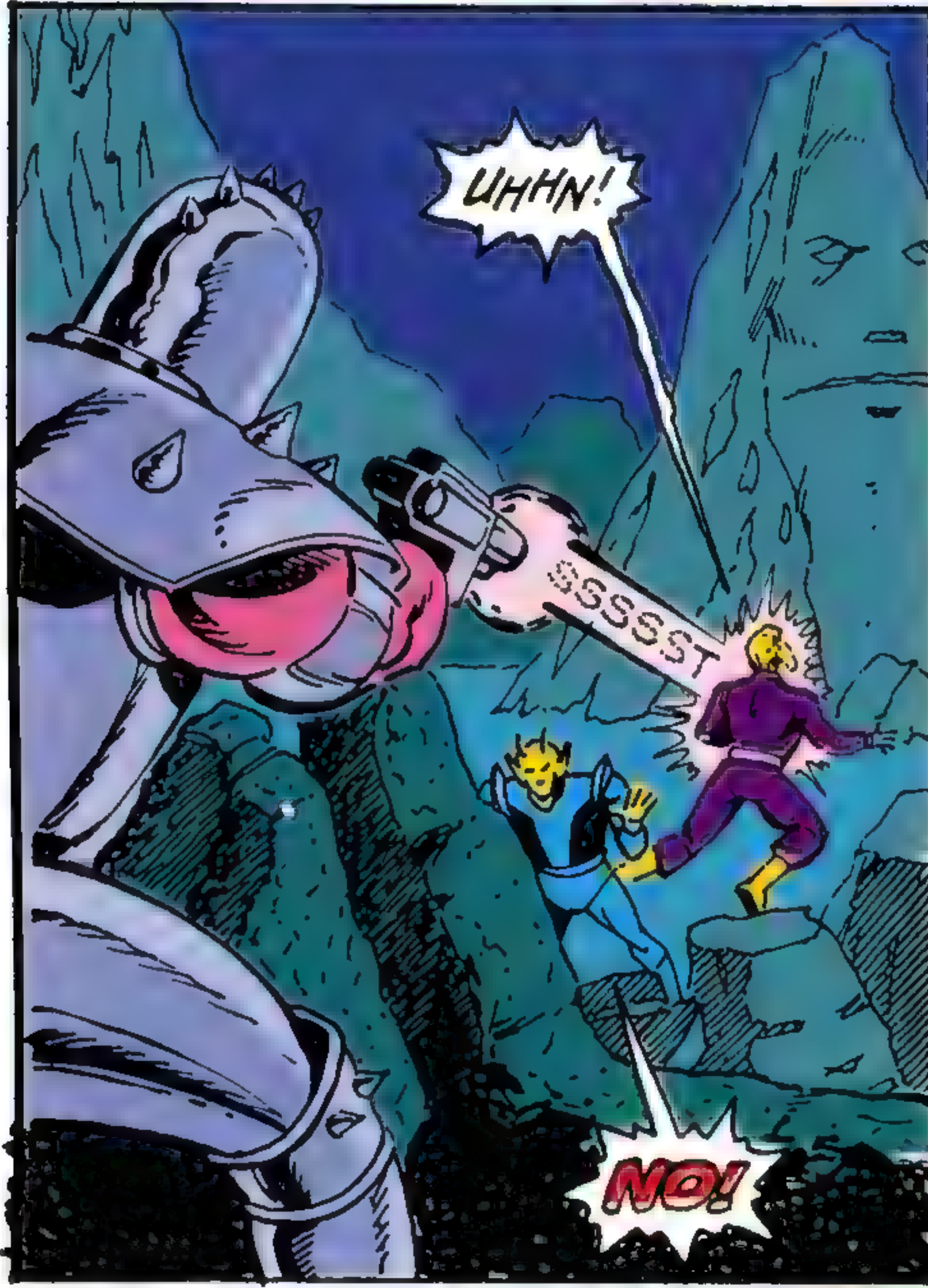
ALL RIGHT, LEGIONNAIRES! YOU WIN!

NO, BLAST YOU! WE CAN'T GIVE UP!

I'M DROPPING THE FORCE FIELD...!

LET'S STAY ON OUR TOES, NOW...

SHUT UP, HUMAN!



UHHN!

SSSSST

NO!



KILL 'EM! KILL 'EM!

BLOODY NASS... SO STUPID... GOTTA IMPROVISE...!

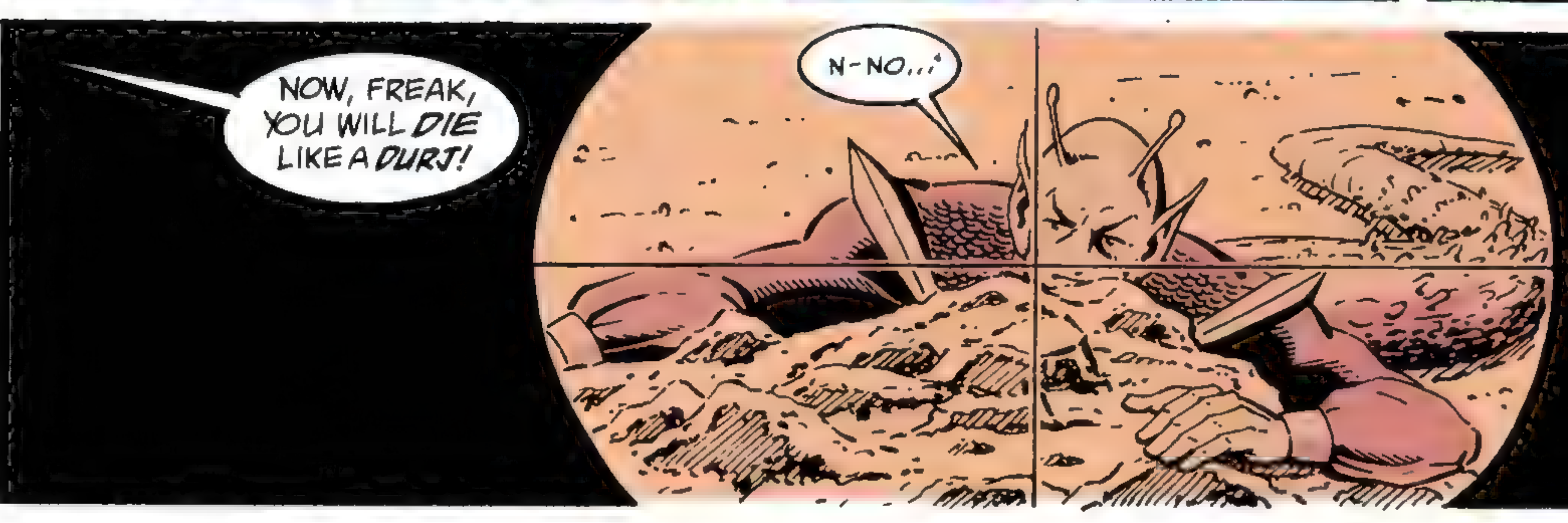
NOW WE HAVE THEM!



BAH! HE IS INEXPERIENCED-- A SLOW AND CLUMSY DURLAN!

UHHN!

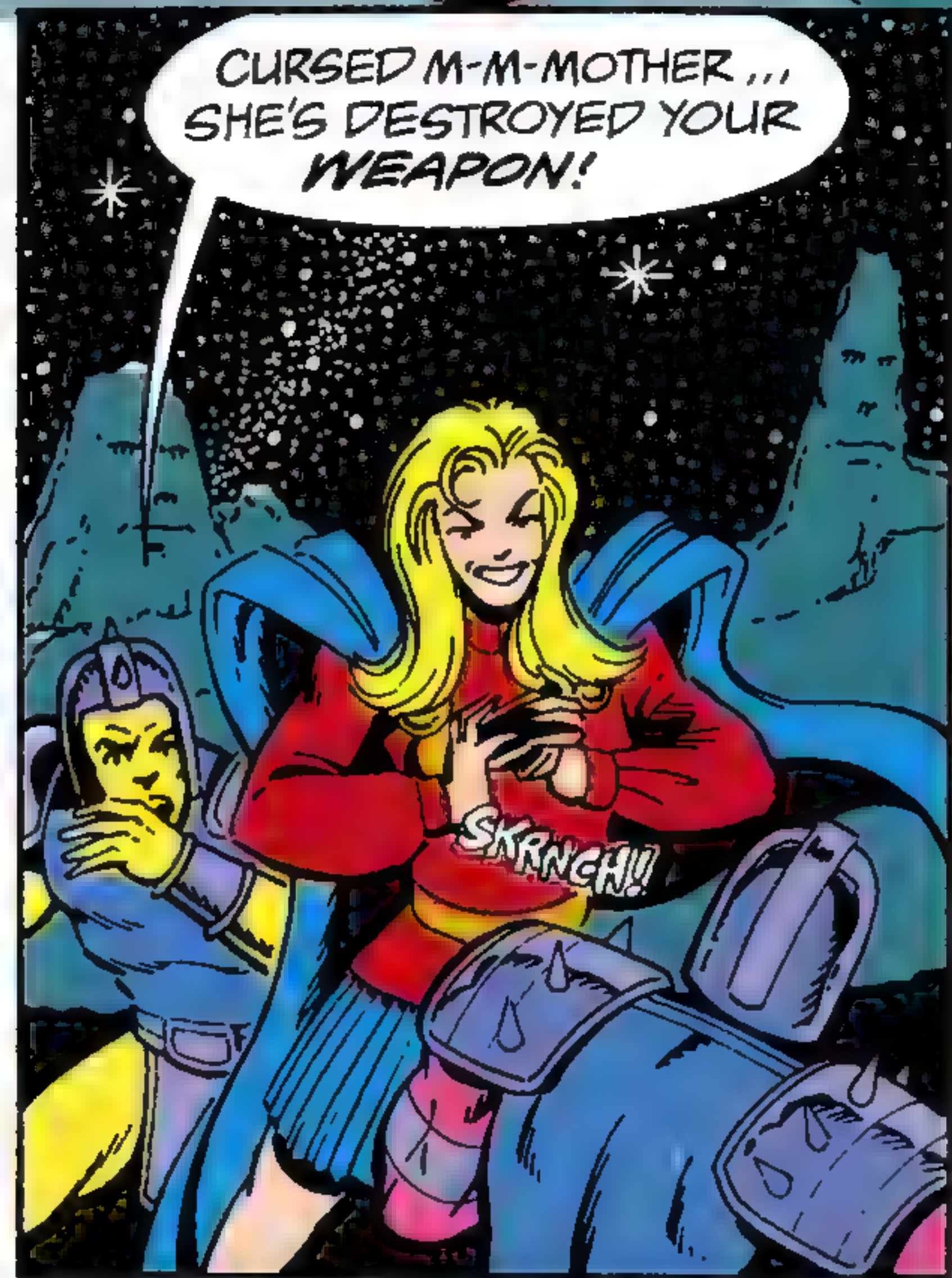
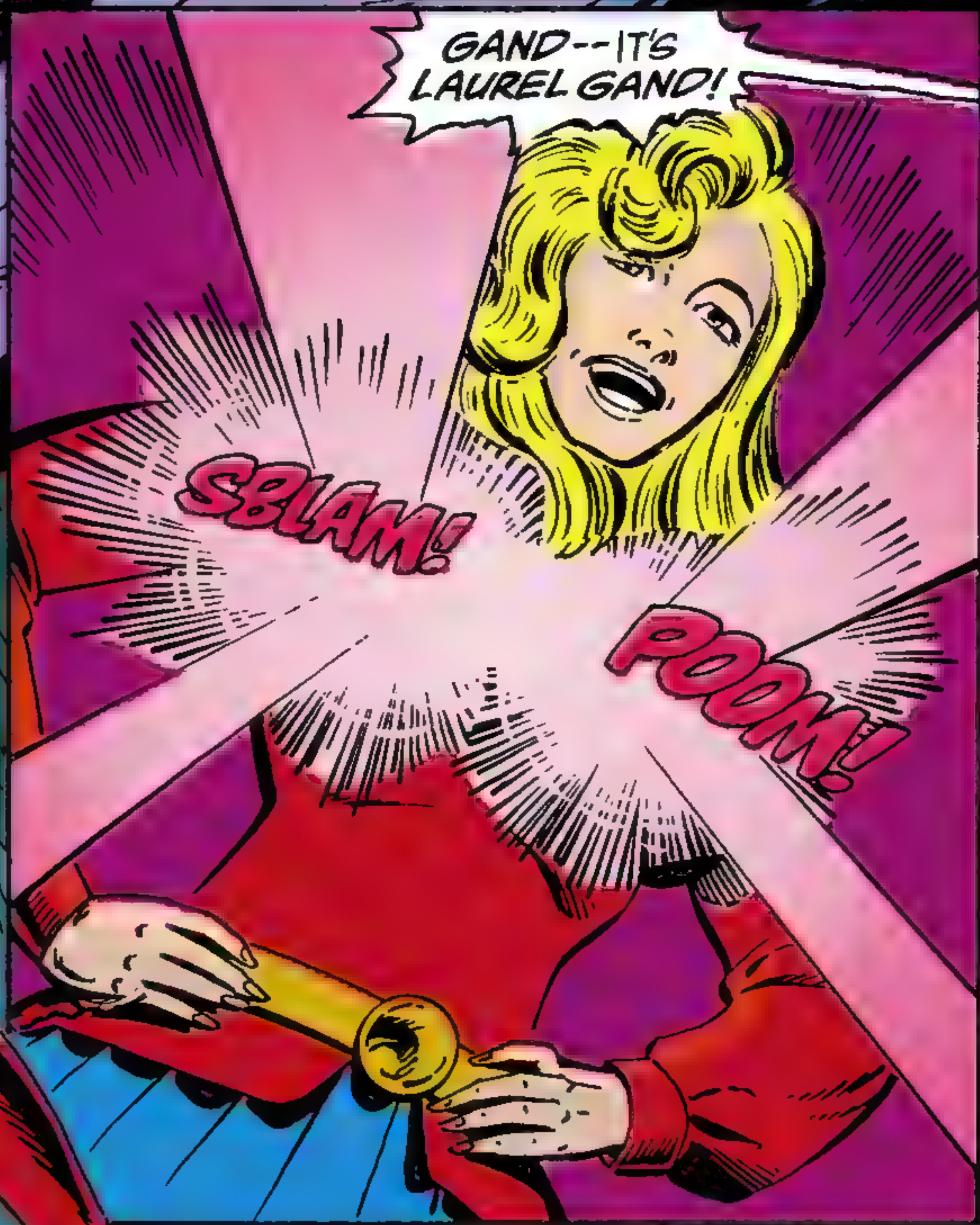
MARKSMAN-- YOUR WEAPON!



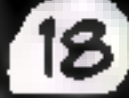
NOW, FREAK, YOU WILL DIE LIKE A DURT!

N-NO...

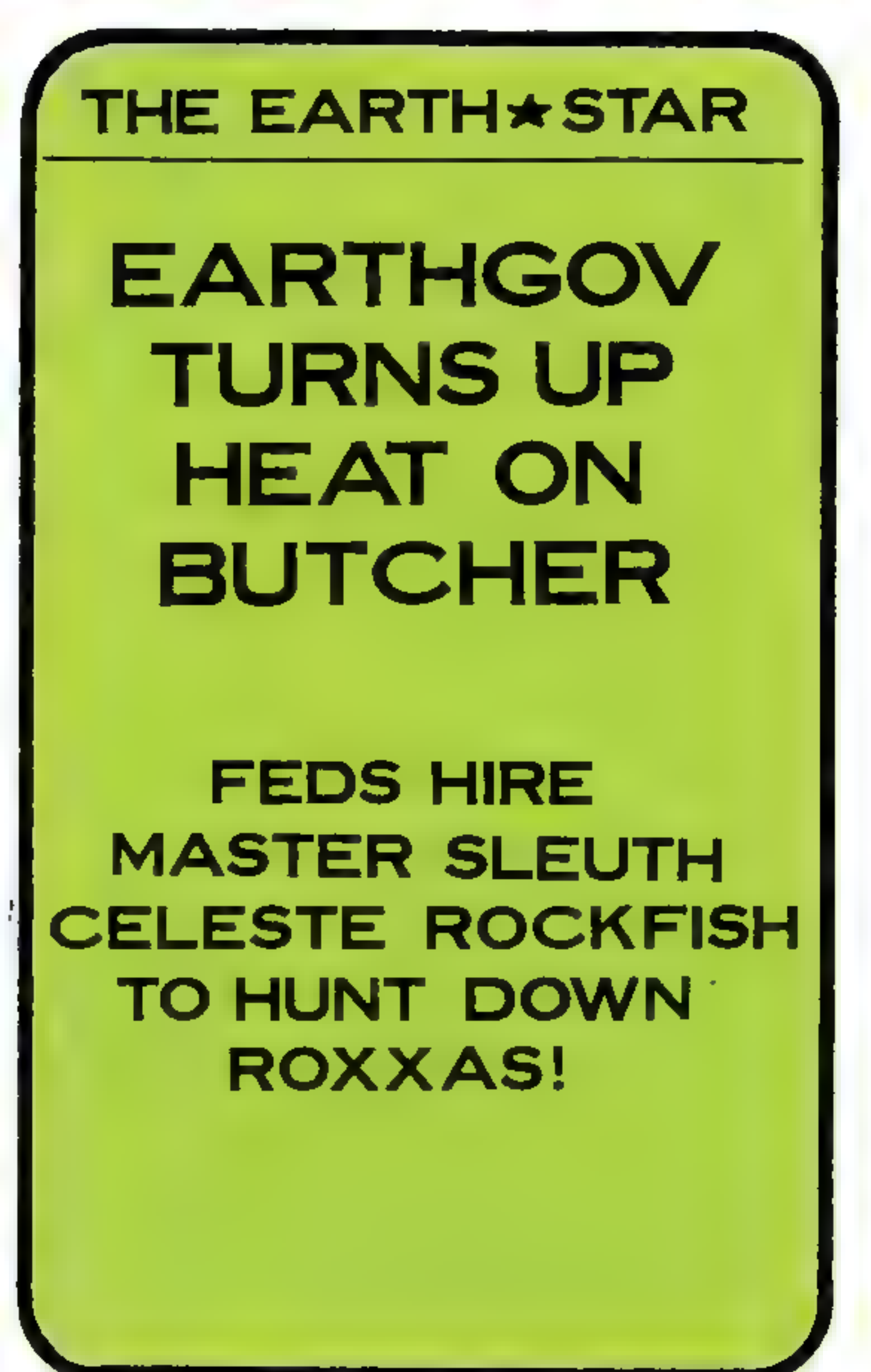
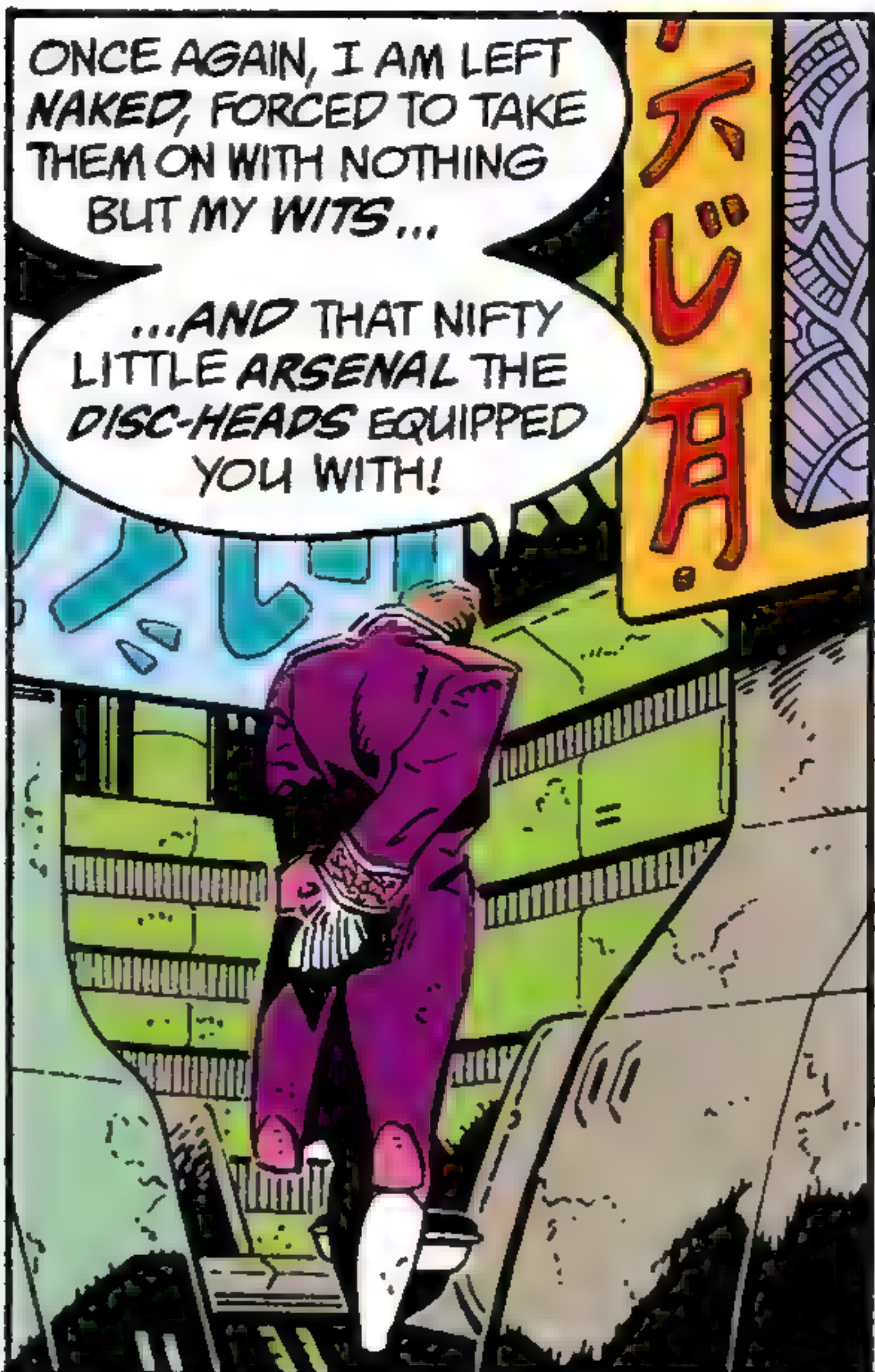
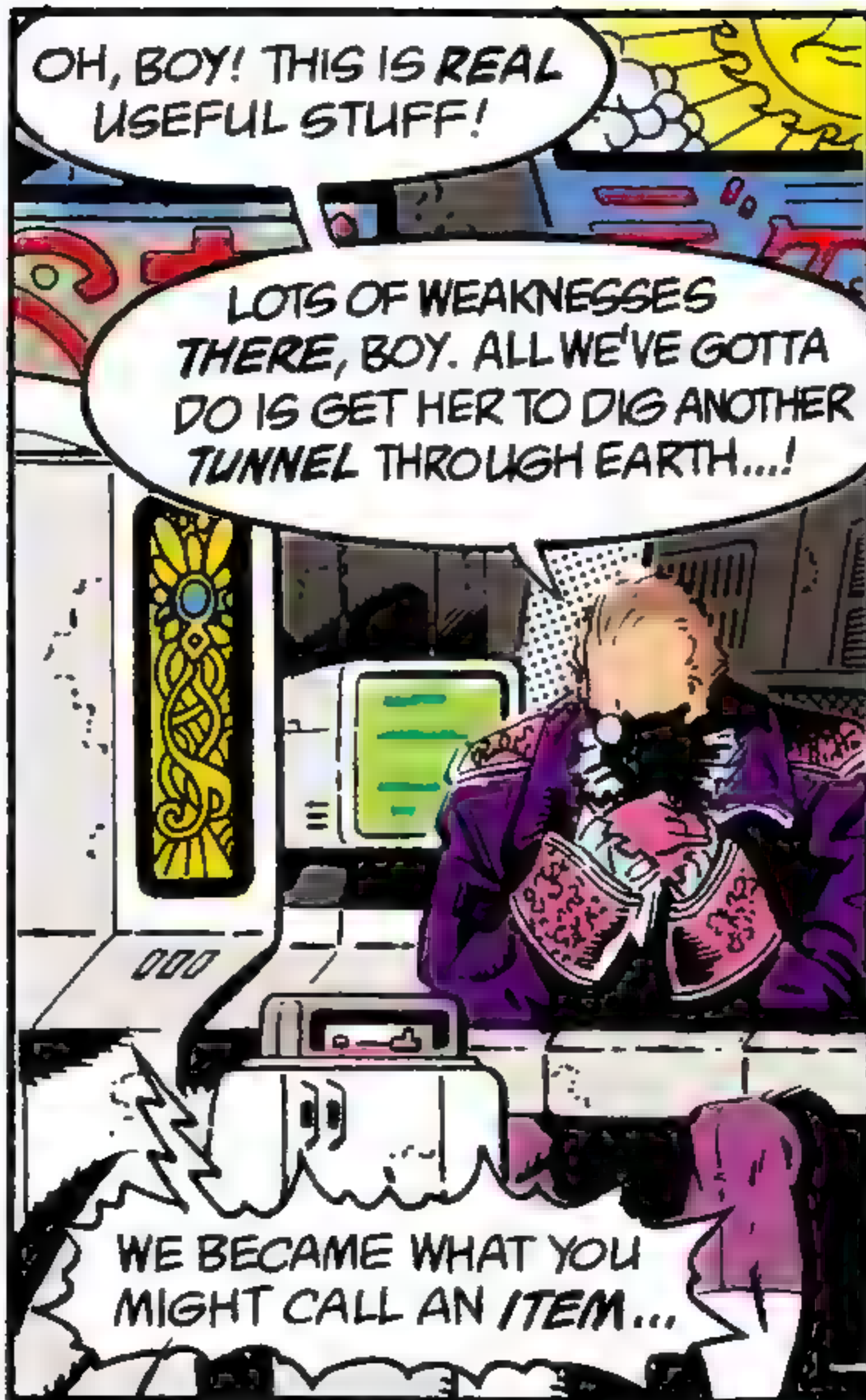














YUCATAN VII RESEARCH STATION  
TO J586 HOME BASE. PLEASE  
COME IN ...

J586 HOME BASE, RECEIVING.  
YOU HAVE A REPORT?

YES-- WE CONTINUE TO  
MONITOR THE ENERGY ANOMALY,  
HAVING TRACKED IT FROM ITS  
ORIGIN POINT ON EARTH TO  
TROM AND THEN ON TOWARD  
WINATH...

UH, SOME INCORRECT DATA  
THERE, YUCATAN STATION. THE  
ANOMALY DID NOT ORIGINATE  
ON EARTH.

THIS IS THE SAME READING  
THAT GRAZED THE MAINLAND  
HERE ABOUT 12 REVOLUTIONS  
BACK.

HUH? REALLY?

HAVE YOU PROJECTED  
WHERE IT WAS COMING  
FROM?

SOMEWHERE ABOUT IN THE  
CENTRAL CLUSTER, BUT  
DEFINITELY HEADED  
TOWARD EARTH.

CENTRAL CLUSTER...HMMM.

FUNNY, THAT'S WHERE...  
NO, NO, SCRATCH THAT--  
TOO FAR-FETCHED.

LEAVE THE THEORIZING TO  
THE LAB BOYS, YUCATAN. SO  
WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE  
ANOMALY NOW?

STEADY AS SHE GOES.  
STILL HEADED TOWARD  
WINATH. CONSISTENT  
SPEED. CONSISTENT COURSE.

PROBABLY NO LONGER A  
THREAT TO J586, BUT KEEP  
YOUR EYE ON IT NONETHELESS.

WE MAY BE ABOUT TO SEE  
SOME REAL FIREWORKS  
ON WINATH.



IN ORBIT ABOVE CYGNUS IV ...

BLOODY TOOTH-FACED DISK-HEADS...



...I TRUSTED THEM. I EVEN DRANK FROM THE SAME GLASS WITHOUT WIPING OFF THE SPIT!

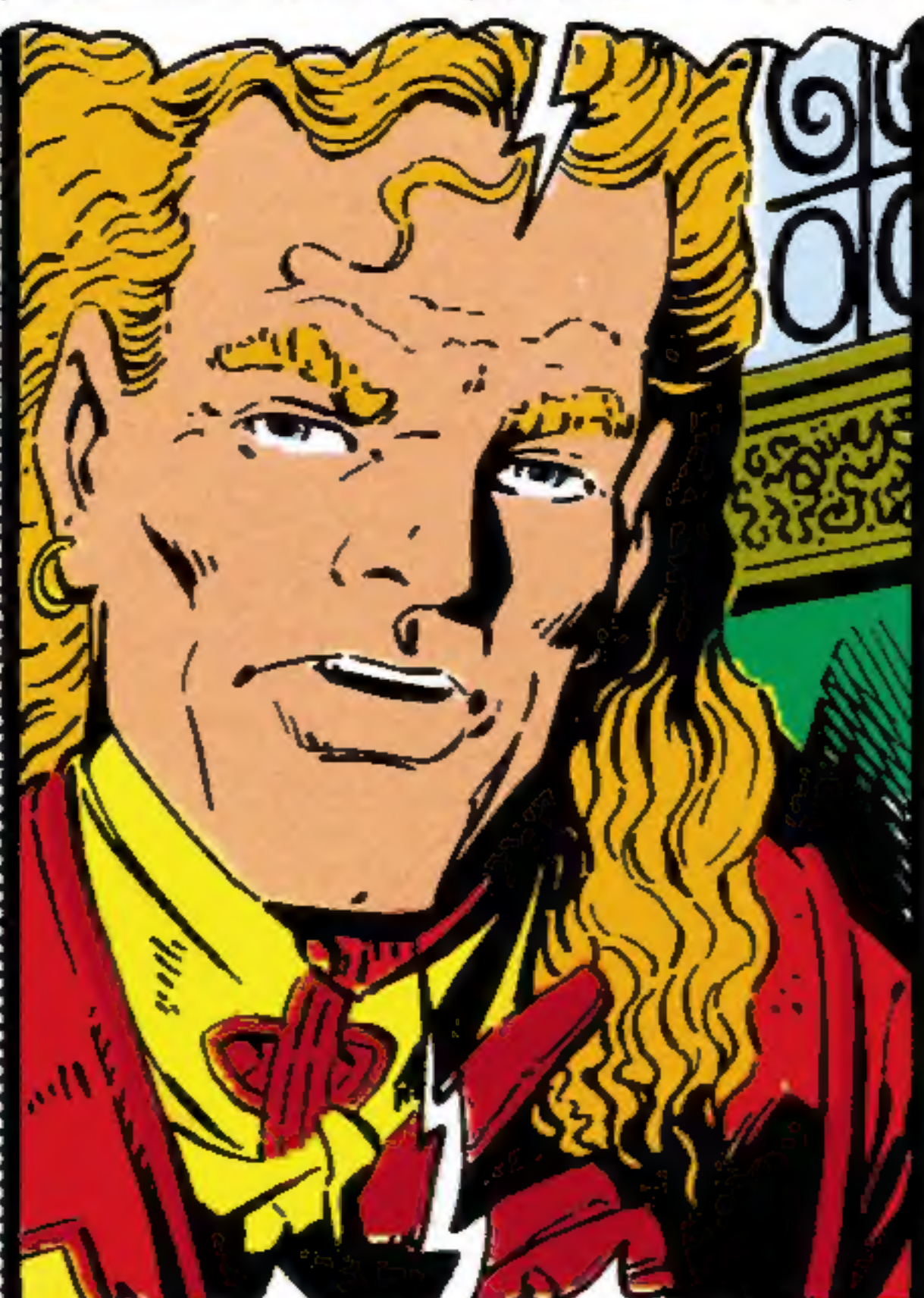
AND NOW--NOW THEY'VE TURNED EVERYONE AGAINST ME...

...EVEN MY FAVORITE BABOOTH-FACED ANCHORMAN...



--OKESMAN DIRK MORGNA SAYS EARTHGOV IS CONFIDENT ROCKFISH CAN TRACK DOWN THE SUSPECTED MURDERER ROXYAS.

PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO LINK US TO THE COWARDLY MURDER OF BLOK, AND WE WON'T STAND FOR IT!

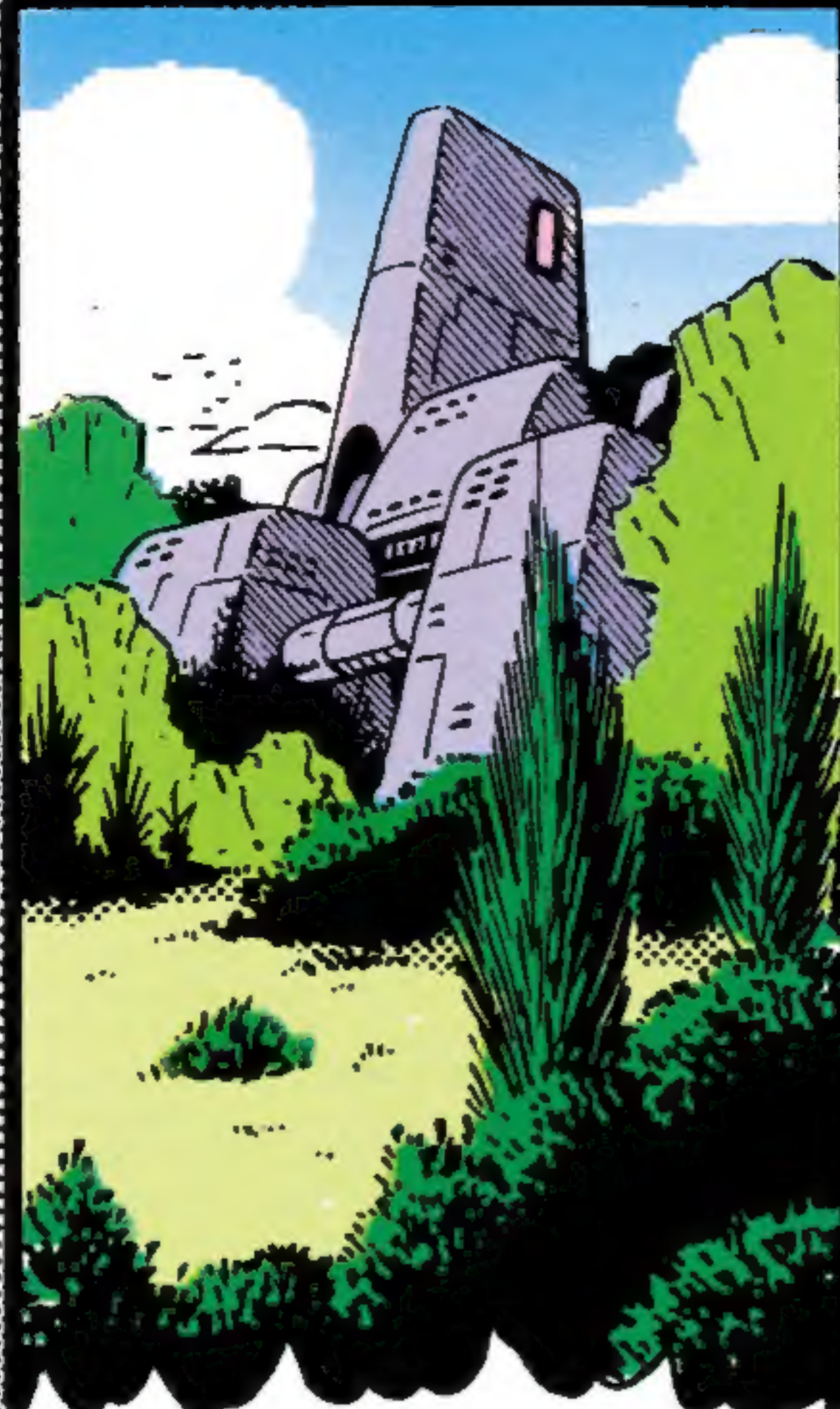


SO WE'RE MAKING SURE THE TRUTH COMES OUT--THE FULL TRUTH.

ROCKFISH, NOW IN THE COMPANY OF EX-LEGIONNAIRE JAN ARRAH, IS HEADED TOWARD WINATH...



...WHERE THE BODY OF BLOK REMAINS...

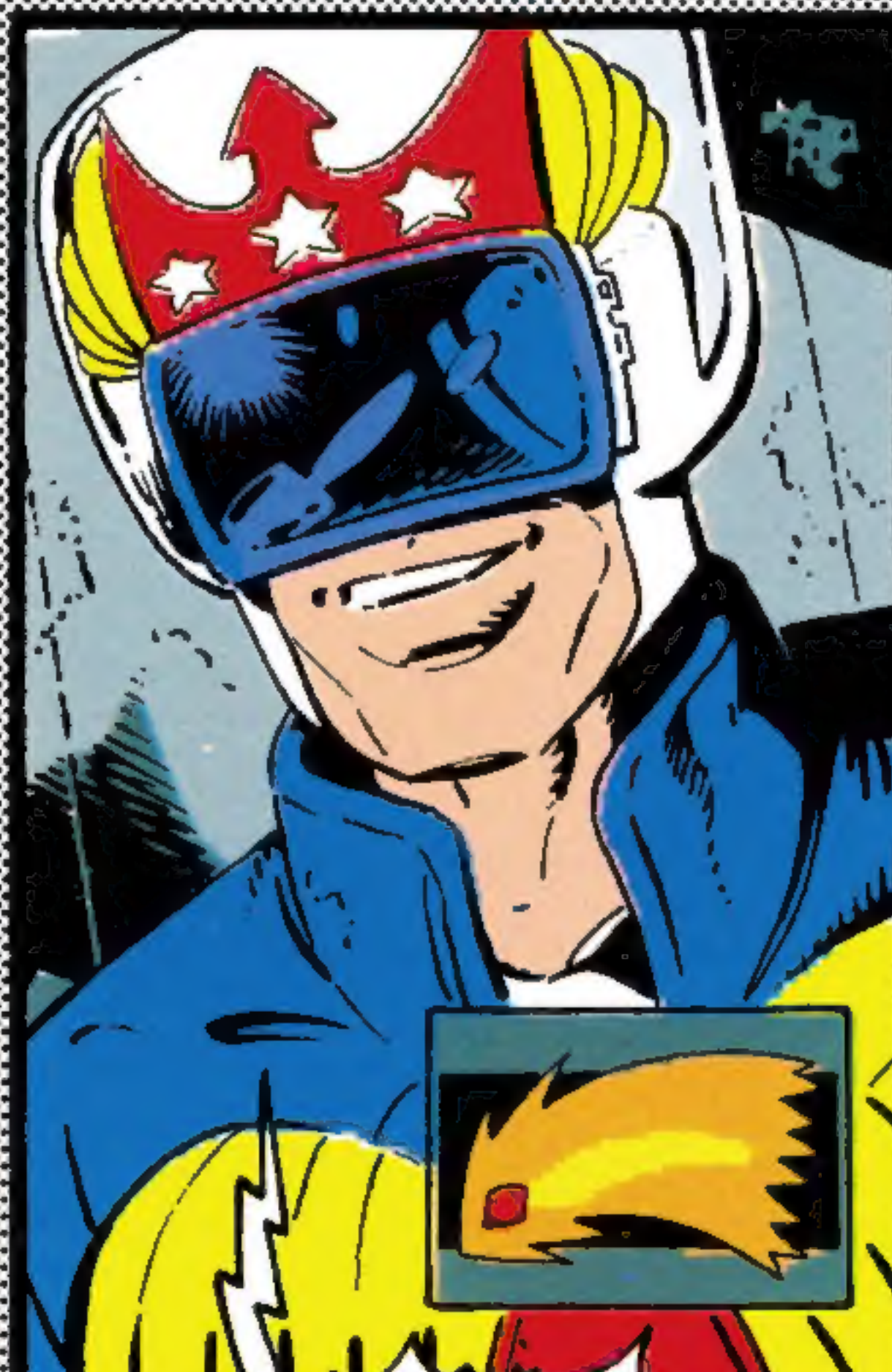


...AT THE LIGHTNING RING PLANTATION, HOME OF SEVERAL ADDITIONAL EX-LEGIONNAIRES.


NO WORD YET ON THE REASON FOR THIS GATHERING ON WINATH, OR WHAT THE DELAYS BEEN IN CONDUCTING BLOK'S FUNERAL.



MORE NEWS AFTER THIS...



HI! REMEMBER ME? TIMOTHY SANTOZA, THE WESTER--




SO...

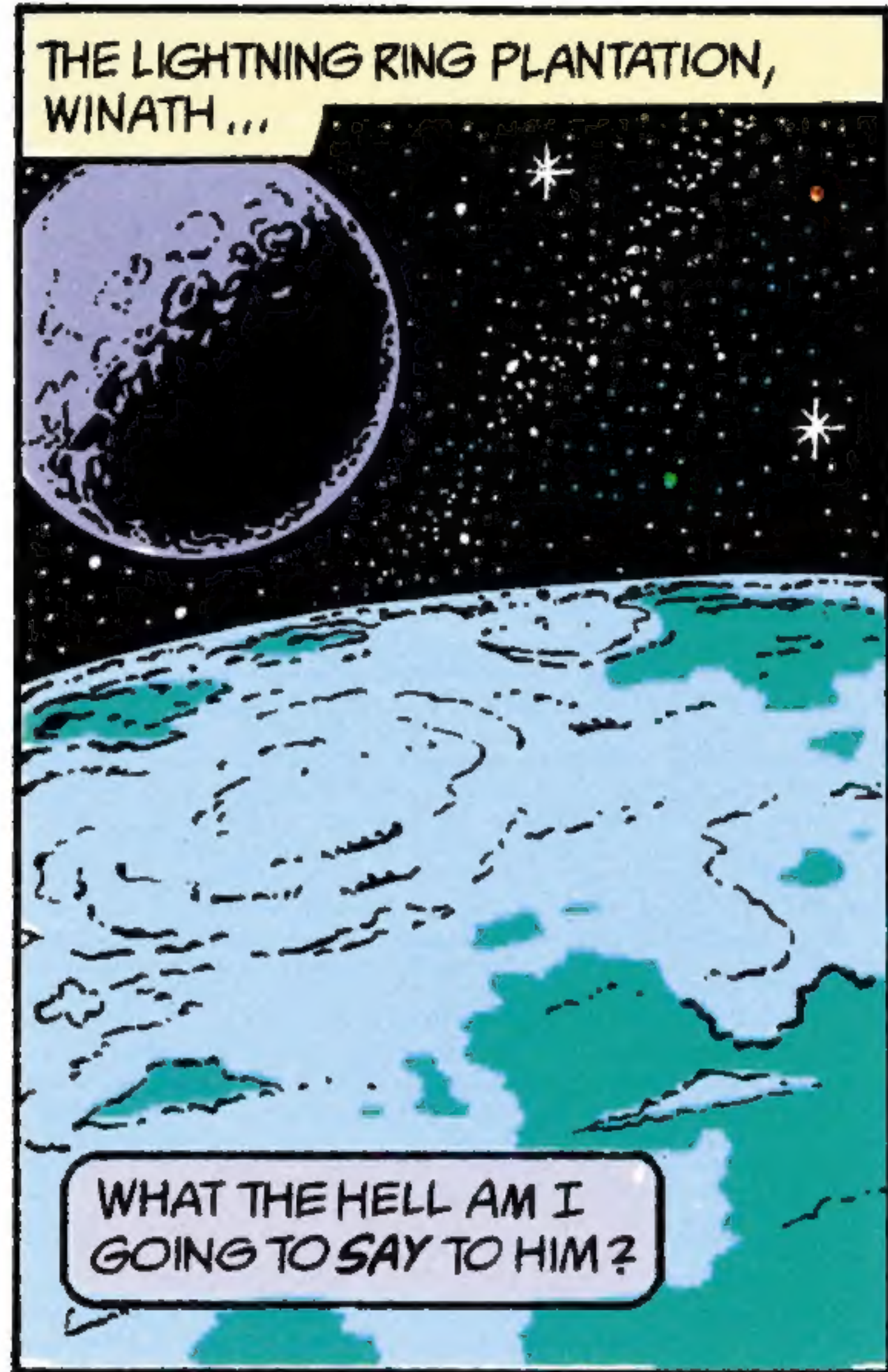
...THE REVERED CELESTE ROCKFISH, WOMAN WITH ALL THE ANSWERS, IS ON HER WAY TO WINATH...

...AS IS A FUN-PACK OF EX-LEGIONNAIRES.

I JUST LOVE THIS ONE-STOP SHOPPING!







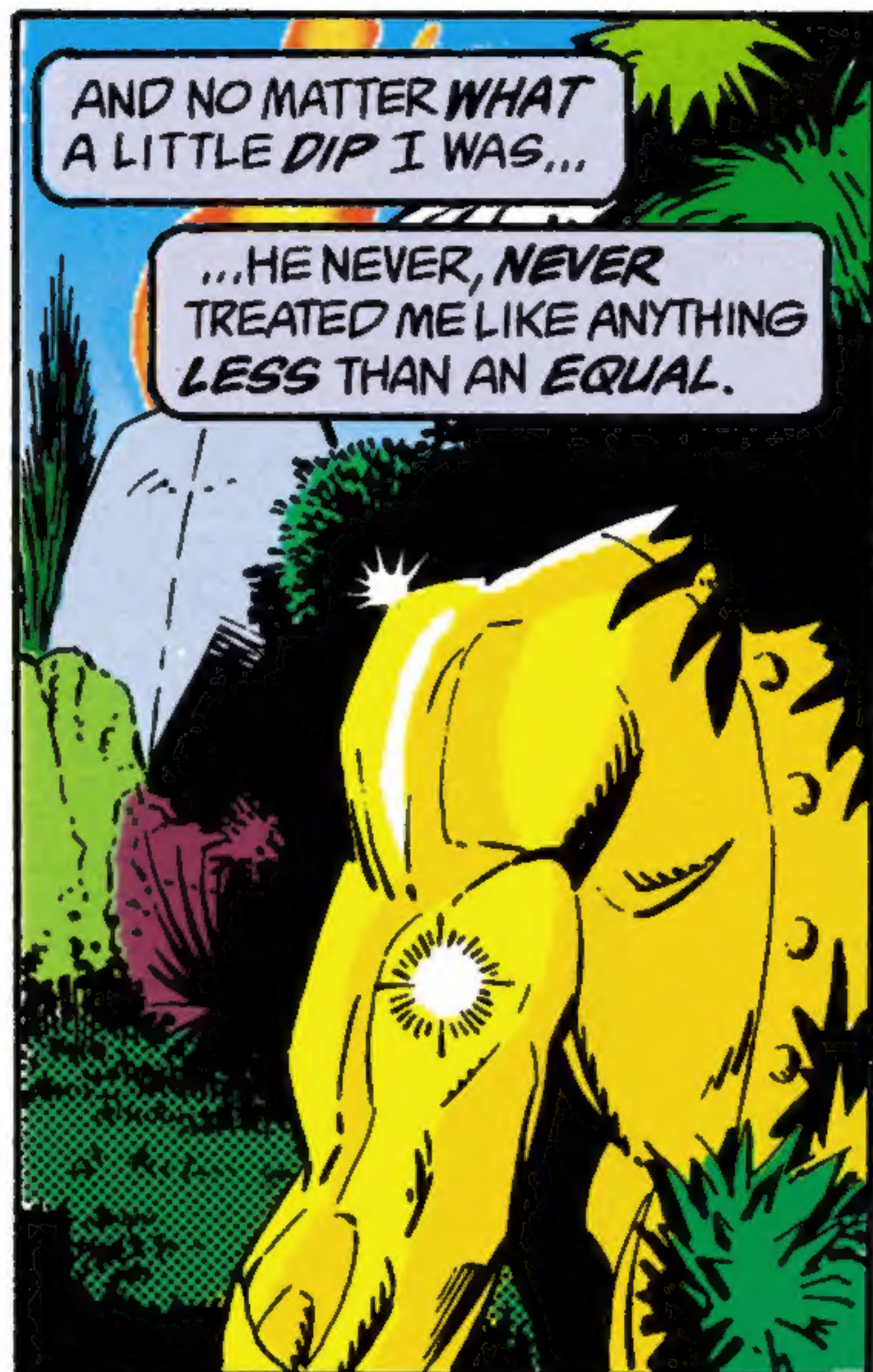
THE LIGHTNING RING PLANTATION,  
WINATH...

WHAT THE HELL AM I  
GOING TO SAY TO HIM?



I REMEMBER BACK WHEN I  
FIRST JOINED THE LEGION--  
I WAS SO RAW AND SCARED.

AND THERE HE WAS, THE MODEL  
FOR EVERYTHING I WANTED TO  
BE. MAN, I THOUGHT HE WAS  
GOD!



AND NO MATTER WHAT  
A LITTLE DIP I WAS...

...HE NEVER, NEVER  
TREATED ME LIKE ANYTHING  
LESS THAN AN EQUAL.



SO HOW DO I REPAY  
HIM? I GO OFF TO  
WAR AGAINST HIS  
PLANET.

THE GOOD LITTLE SOLDIER.  
THE IMSKIAN PATRIOT.



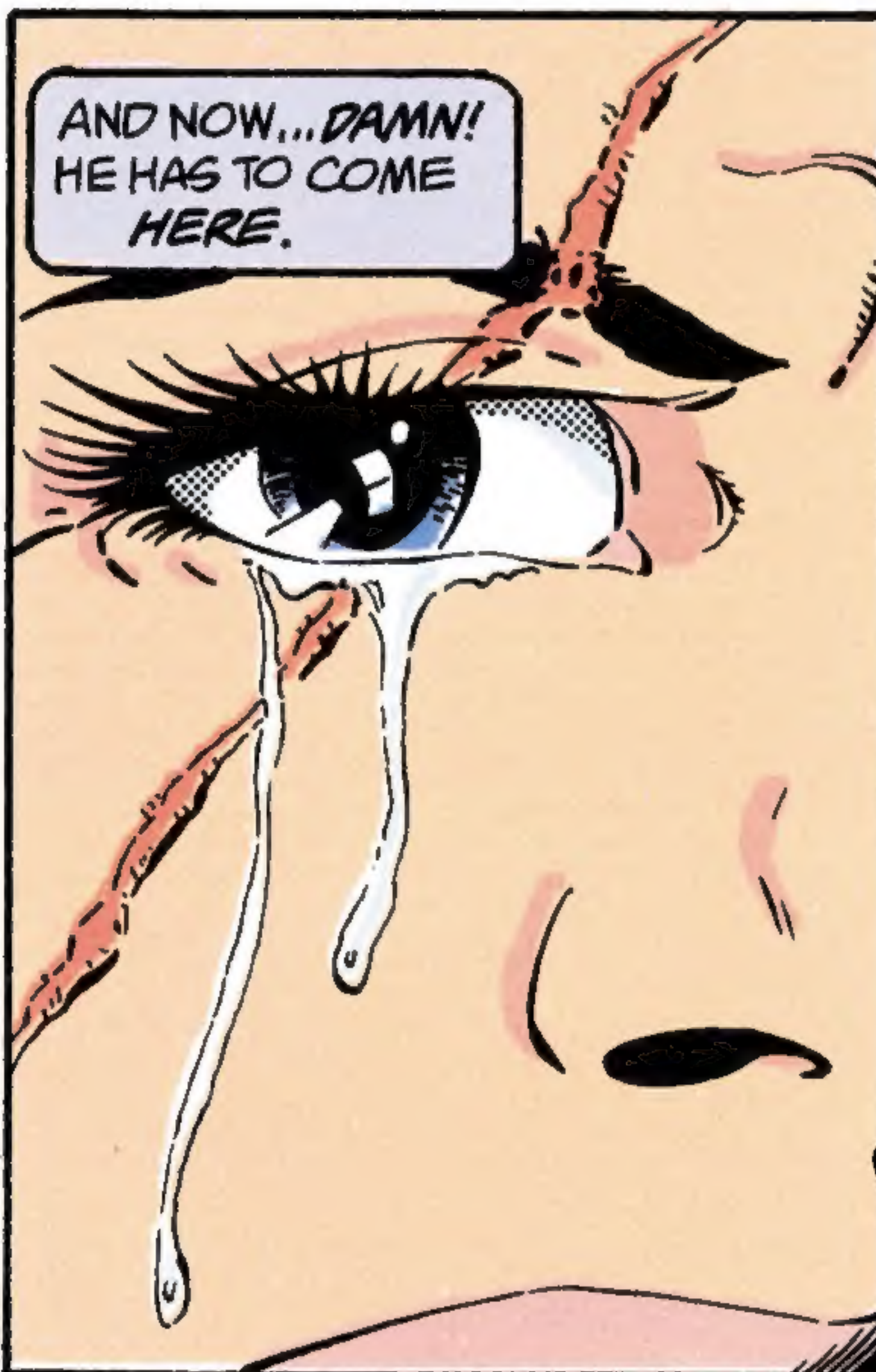
I DID MY DAMN BEST  
TO ADD ROKK KRINN'S  
NAME TO THIS SCROLL!

IN MEM  
POL KR  
BLOK  
TINY

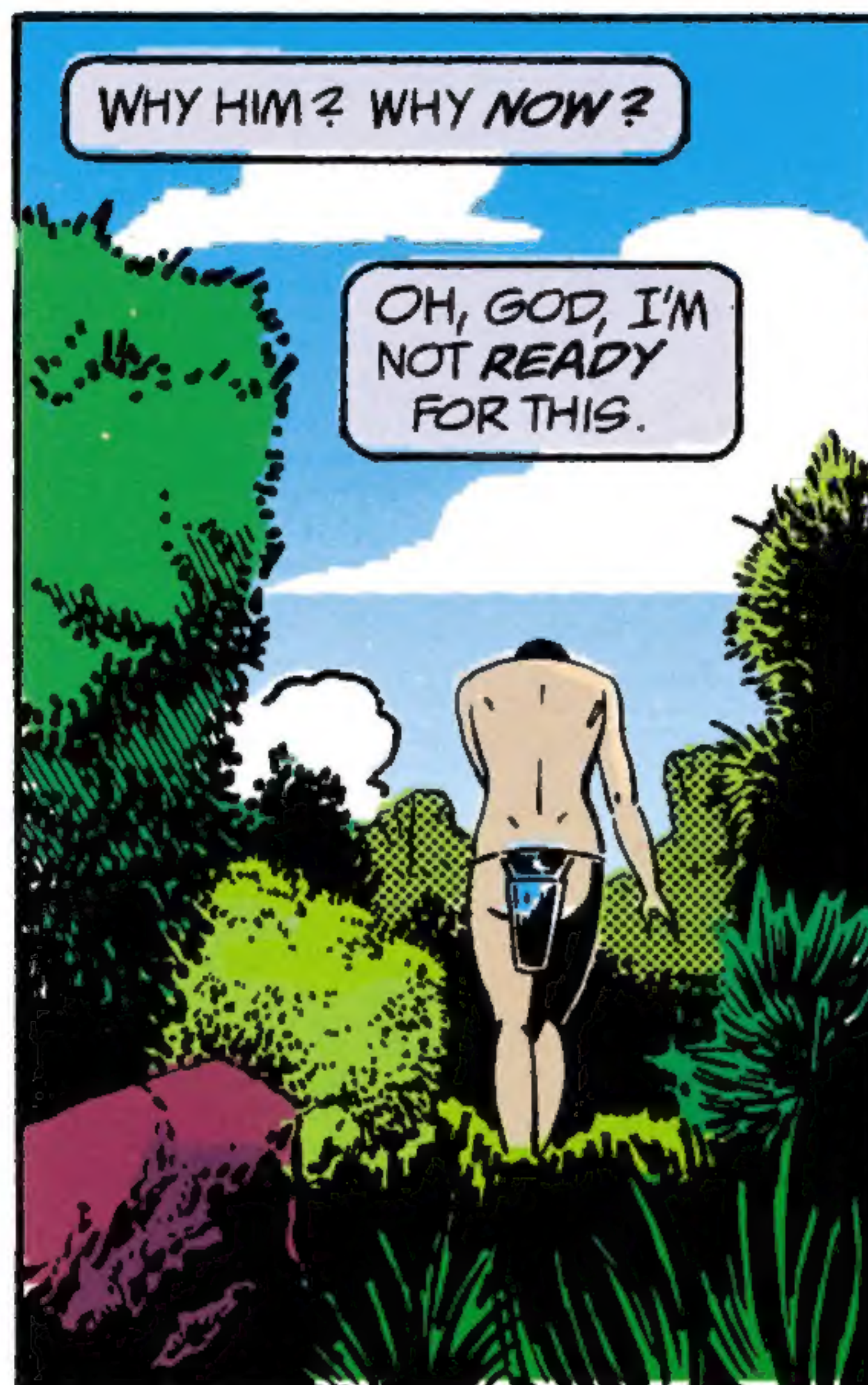


FACE IT, VI--YOU HELPED  
MASSACRE THOUSANDS OF  
BRAALIANS... AND YOU  
ALMOST GOT HIM.

IF HE NEVER  
FORGIVES YOU, NOT  
A SOUL IN THE  
UNIVERSE COULD  
BLAME HIM.



AND NOW... DAMN!  
HE HAS TO COME  
HERE.



WHY HIM? WHY NOW?

OH, GOD, I'M  
NOT READY  
FOR THIS.



TOM & MARY  
BIERBAUM  
STORY

KEITH GIFFEN  
FRAME PENCILS &  
STORY ASSIST

PARIS CULLINS  
FLASHBACK PENCILS

BOB LEWIS  
INKS

TODD KLEIN  
LETTERER

TOM McCRAW  
COLORIST

MICHAEL EURY  
EDITOR



## Legion Confidential

The Legion Groupie Has All The Answers To Your Legion Questions

The Legion Groupie, Vol. 1, Number 10, April 2974



**I absolutely adore Brainiac 5, but my friend said he's dating Laurel Gand! Am I too late?—Freedom Gale, Brookline, Rimbor.**

You haven't missed out . . . YET, anyway. Yes, Brainy and Laurel are "very good friends," and they've been spied stealing a kiss from time to time. But they both say they're too young for any really serious commitment. "People ask me all the time if Brainy and I are serious," admits Laurel. "Between all our duties as Legionnaires and just keeping up with our studies, we don't have much time for romance."

**I think the rule prohibiting the Legionnaires from getting married should be changed. I'm sure they could do their work just as well if they were married.**  
—Sharleen Sopowitz, Metropolis, Earth.

Hold your horses! There's plenty of time! After all, the Super-Heroes aren't out of their teens yet!

**I notice some of the girl Legionnaires have boyfriends they particularly like, but what about Triplicate Girl. Does she flip over one particular boy, or is she just a "three-timer"?—Eddie Jones, Jefferson City, Toonar.**

The pert 162cm brunette, who hails from the planet Cargg where everyone can "triplicate," says she likes lots of guys, but isn't dating anyone in particular now. She does admit, however, that there's one very special love deep in her heart, but she isn't going to let you readers know about it until that special guy does!

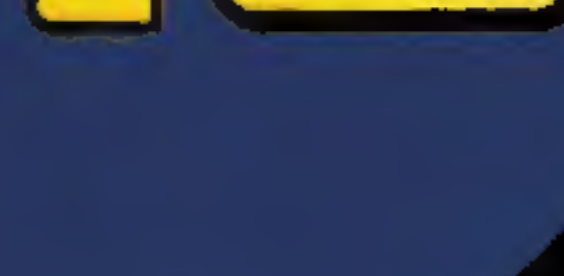
**I'm a 12-year-old guy who's in love with Laurel Gand. Can you tell me how tall she is? And how did she get to be so tall?—Flynt Brojj, Metropolis, Earth.**

The statuesque platinum-blond beauty is growing all the time. At last report, she'd reached 192cm, and she probably won't stop growing till she's reached perhaps 210cm. Laurel tells us, "I'm probably just tall because I'm tall. Both my parents were over 182cm, so I just came out that way. They also say Daxamites who spend a long time on planets with less gravity have been known to grow an extra few centimeters."

What's it like being a head taller than most of her gorgeous teammates? "I think it might bother some of the guys to see a girl so much bigger and stronger than them, but they try to act like they don't care," she says. "When I go on dates with Brainiac 5, some people stare at us, but we just ignore it. Brainy says that on his planet they'd never even think about something as silly as whether the girl or the guy is taller. It's just who you are inside that really matters."

Send YOUR Legion questions to:

LEGION CONFIDENTIAL  
c/o The Legion Groupie  
1915 Euclid Avenue  
Metropolis, North America, Earth





## Earth: Conquerors' Crossroads

Excerpt from "A Naturalist History of the Universe"  
Text for Level-7 Students, Revised September 1994



... wasn't always as it is today. Now that Earthgov is waffling on the basic United Planets tenets of free expression, anti-bigotry law, and unrestricted exchange, there's a tendency to think of Earth as a troublesome presence in the heart of the old U.P. territories.

But prior to the economic collapse of the ('90s), Earth stood as a proud, free world, with a long tradition of support for the U.P. principles. Sociologists have had a difficult time unravelling the mystery of exactly why the social climate there changed so radically so quickly.

Beyond doubt, the economic collapse caused hardships for the people of Earth and for residents of many other U.P. worlds. But in addition to that, many believe a form of xenophobic hysteria has infected the Earth population after the planet was hit by wave after wave of invasion throughout the '70s and '80s.

Earth has always drawn would-be conquerors like wolves to a kekkpack. As motherworld to the great colonization of the past millennium, it's a strategically located hub within the most densely populated region of U.P. space.

And Earth was also the seat of the United Planets during the first nine decades of the century. It's a highly productive, highly industrialized planet, and its native population is a potent producer of hyper-natural mutations.

**The Khund Invasions:** To the Khunds, Earth had long represented the cornerstone of what's viewed as the menacing, ever-expanding leviathan of the United Planets. To the over-populated, resource-poor Khund homeworlds, the rapid growth of the U.P. in the 29th and 30th centuries seemed to pose an immediate, direct threat to their survival.

Difficulties dealing with the technologically adroit races held back the Khunds for decades, but finally, under the first great Warlord Zaryan, the Khunds mounted a meaningful, potent threat to the United Planets.

Zaryan began annexing frontier worlds in the late 2950s and had penetrated deeply into the well-settled regions of the U.P. by the early 2970s, until his fleet was decimated in the disastrous Battle of Daxam.

Zaryan regrouped during the following years; he was determined to rely more on stealth than on the raw strength that had won him so many earlier victories. The new strategy appeared to be paying off by 2975, when he launched the first modern Khund invasion of Earth.

But by then, the Legion of Super-Heroes had formed, and in a pattern that would become very familiar to the Khunds, served a key role in repelling the invasion of Earth. In this case, only Legionnaires Lightning Lad and Saturn Girl participated in the battle, but Lightning Lad was able to deal a fatal blow to the invasion by destroying Zaryan's craft and killing the great conqueror. The Legionnaire himself perished in the battle, but was later revived by his teammates.

The shattered Khund fleet was inherited by one of Zaryan's generals, Garlak, who, within two-and-a-half years, was able to mount a far more potent invasion of Earth, this time aided by a spy within the Legion's ranks. But the War of 2977 was brief and decisive, and once again, the Khunds had been repelled.

Though arguably a more brilliant warrior than Zaryan, Garlak was absolutely ruled by his pride, and the rout he suffered in the War of 2977 demolished his ego.

Garlak's increasingly reckless actions brought him in the early 2980s into a questionable alliance with the Dark Circle and Mordru. Though those combined forces launched the most devastating invasion of Earth in this century, Garlak had allowed the Khunds to become the puppets of his allies. The Warlord went utterly mad during the Earthwar, and the great fleet, part of which dated back to Zaryan's early campaigns, was finally, soundly defeated . . .

